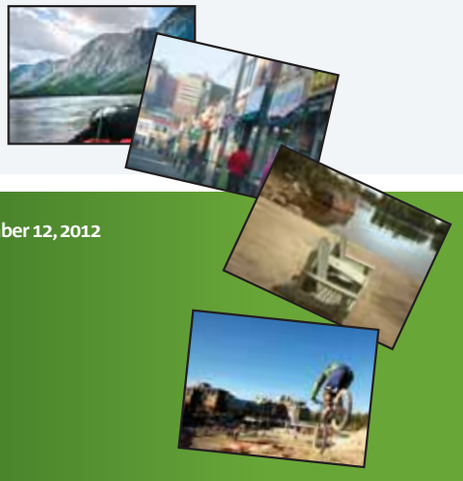
Topanga and Cory, Take 2

With the '90s coming-of-age series spinning off Girl Meets World, what other classic shows are due for a revival? PAGE 23

EH-MAZING PLACE

WITH THE AMAZING RACE COMING TO CANADA NEXT SUMMER, METRO SUGGESTS SOME MUST-SEE SPOTS PAGE 29



VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

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12-12-12: Nice day for a wedding

Release the doves.
Local lovebirds among many brides and grooms headed for altar on rare triple-digit date

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Paolo Cartocci and Jenn Miller were sitting on a beach in Sao Paulo last January, flush with the excitement of having just gotten engaged, when the ideal wedding date struck Cartocci.

"It just came to me naturally," the 33-year-old realtor told Metro.

"We were trying to think of a day and we were like, 'You know what? 12-12-12: this is the last set of consecutive dates that we will ever come across, and let's just take advantage of it.' And things started falling in place."

Even though they were in Brazil, Miller, a corporate secretary, immediately booked a makeup artist and wedding planner, realizing they might not be the only ones with their hearts set on the once-in-a-century date.

In Canada alone, David's Bridal has some 381 brides registered with the retailer who say they will be getting hitched on 12-12-12.

Miller was especially keen to reserve Brix in Yaletown for their reception, but another wedding party almost beat her to it. That couple ended up backing out and getting married earlier, so Miller said "the stars aligned."

It's an added bonus for the Catholic pair, who have been together for four years, that Wednesday marks the religious feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Cartocci said the amount of energy focused on the date worldwide, both positive and negative, is overwhelming.

"To be part of that with my beautiful wife-to-be, I'm really speechless," he said.

Reached as she rushed to some final appointments before her big day, Miller couldn't help but poke fun at her betrothed.

"For me, I kind of figured, you know, at least he won't forget our wedding anniversary," she laughed.

Cartocci and Miller will tie the knot in front of 200 guests Wednesday at West Vancouver's Christ the Redeemer church.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Follow Kate Webb on Twitter @MetroK8

Paolo Cartocci and Jenn Miller are among thousands of couples around the world getting married on 12-12-12. MARK WHITEHEAD/GET THE SHOT STUDIOS

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Gun-toting Santa Claus breaks into international TV

Spreading a little Christmas fear. Abbotsford police card spotted on LIVE with Kelly and Michael

Abbotsford police's Santa-with-a-gun Christmas card for criminals is becoming an international hot topic.

It appeared on LIVE with Kelly and Michael and may even appear on Anderson Cooper's show.

The provocative greeting — sent out by the department to inspire gangsters, drug dealers and serial offenders to play nice — received exposure on Tuesday's episode of the hit daytime show hosted by Kelly Ripa and Michael Strahan.

"I like the message and I do like the police chief dressed as Santa, but the gun is a little frightening to me," she said as she held up a photo of the card to the crowd.

Strahan, a former NFL player, then said, "Nothing says we're here to help more than Santa in tactical gear."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Operation Resolution

Police surprised by recognition

APD spokesperson Const. Ian MacDonald said the card has gotten more attention than they thought it would.

Since the card give-away announcement, MacDonald said they have received a "90 per cent positive response" from the public based on social-media responses, emails and phone calls.

The specially created cards are part of Operation Resolution. Each card has the caption "Which list will you be on next year?"

The APD hopes that the cards serve as a reminder to the city's worst criminals that they are only one choice away from changing their lives. METRO

Hosts Kelly Ripa and Michael Strahan share their thoughts on the APD Christmas card. SCREENGRAB/LIVE WITH KELLY AND MICHAEL

Carly Rae Jepsen arrives at the 2012 MuchMusic Video Awards in Toronto on June 17. JAG GUNDU/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Abbotsford man charged in theft of nude Jepsen photos

Vancouver police have charged Christopher David Long, 25, of Abbotsford with hacking into pop superstar Carly Rae Jepsen's computer and stealing nude photos of her in March.

Long is charged with fraudulently obtaining telecommunications services, unauthorized use of a computer, mischief to obtain data, identity fraud and possession of stolen property.

Police say he surrendered on Friday at the Abbotsford Court House and has been released with conditions until his next court appearance on Jan. 4 in Abbotsford.

Jepsen's publicist did not respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

The Mission-raised singer is currently on tour in Europe and plans to give a free concert in her hometown on Dec. 17.

The five-time platinum artist has been nominated for two Grammys, both for her smash hit single Call Me Maybe, in next year's biggest night in music.

KATE WEBB/METRO

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Domestic violence spikes during holidays: Detective

Holiday stress. Family, finances, booze lead to increased calls for help during Christmas time

Some of the things that are most iconic about the holidays are also the reason domestic violence spikes this time of year.

Det. Elizabeth Miller, an investigator with the Vancouver Police Department's domestic-violence unit, says the VPD doesn't keep monthly statistics on domestic calls, but she has certainly noticed the volume go up around Christmas.

"Let's think about Christmas time: We're all supposed to get together with our family. What if we don't get along with our family? There are financial pressures. A lot of people feel a lot of pressure at Christmas time for a lot of reasons," she told Metro in a recent interview at her offices in the old VANOC headquarters.

"If you're not with your family, you might feel depressed. If you are with your family and there's alcohol involved it might exacerbate things."

Because it is so prevalent, she and her civilian partner, a registered counsellor, as well as the other members of her unit are able to attend to only the most volatile 10 to 15 per cent of calls.

No two cases are ever the same and the reasons people stay in troubled relationships are myriad: fear, stigma, love, hope, exhaustion, lack of supports and children all play into these decisions, Miller said.

"It's the busiest job I've ever had and probably the most stressful, because I am constantly assessing risk."

Priscilla Luk, a frontline crisis worker with the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, said their 120-bed transition house is always full regardless of the time of year, but Christmas creates a special kind of tension.

"During the holidays, some women call us and say that they want to stay at home because they don't want to ruin the holidays for the children," she explained.

The non-profit organization has campaigns calling for better police response to battered women, guaranteed livable incomes to alleviate economic pressures on victims and better funding for women's centres in B.C.

Miller said her message to families struggling to keep the peace this time of year is simple: "It's very common; a lot of people have been through it. Just be safe and report it and get help." KATE WEBB/METRO

Resources

- If you are in a dangerous or threatening situation, call 911
- The Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter 24-hour crisis hotline connects to a number of services and transition houses: 604-872-8212
- B.C. Society of Transition Houses VictimLink line: 1-800-563-0808
- Children Affected by Family Violence Program: 604-874-2938

Det. Elizabeth Miller with the VPD's domestic-violence unit says her case load is extremely heavy and gets worse during the holidays. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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Lower Mainland. Dikes need major upgrades to fend off rising sea: Report

Renewing southern British Columbia's flood-defence network to protect against rising sea levels will cost up to $9.5 billion over the next 90 to 100 years, says a provincial government report.

It said an expected rise in the sea level will affect a significant part of Metro Vancouver and existing flood defences will need to go higher and new berms must be built.

The study area encompasses 250 kilometres of shoreline, 12 major municipalities, and more than two million people could require flood protection.

The study said current dike levels are designed on criteria from the 1970s, while this review looks at estimates of sea level rise up to the 2100.

The report was released Tuesday by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and is meant to get communities thinking about upgrade plans.

Quoted

"The selected options do not need to be fully constructed immediately, but incrementally over the next several decades."

A report released Tuesday by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

It's a followup to a 2011 report that predicted sea levels will rise by one metre along B.C.'s coast by the turn of the next century.

The report noted that such protection is required for the sea-level rise, maximum high tide and storm surges.

The province has also released new seismic guidelines for dike design and the study said all future dike design and construction must be consistent with those requirements.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

North Thompson River. Clearwater teacher's body recovered

An RCMP underwater recovery team has recovered the body of one of two teachers from the small town of Clearwater killed after their car plunged into the North Thompson River Sunday.

Crews pulled the couple's car out of the river with Skye Buck's body inside, but his wife Courtney, who was seven months pregnant, remains missing.

The couple, both 30, were at a section called Wolf's Corner approximately 17 kilometres south of Clearwater at around 7 p.m. when their car skidded off a snow-packed and icy road and plummeted down a 30-metre embankment into the river.

The Bucks were high school sweethearts and were well-known members of the Clearwater community.

Search efforts continued throughout the day along the river, but it has been challenging due to winter weather conditions.

Grievance counsellors and victim services have been brought in to assist staff and students at Clearwater high school and elementary schools, where the couple taught.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Vancouver city council passed a "very modest" $1.4-billion budget Tuesday that will cost city taxpayers an average of $80 more a year. Opposition councillors criticized the budget for not having a line-by-line operating budget. JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE

City council passes $1.4-billion budget

Finances. Homeowners to pay 2.8% more in taxes and fees

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Vancouverites will open their wallets a little wider when the city's taxman comes knocking next year.

City council approved the $1.4-billion 2013 capital and operating budget on Tuesday after it received scant feedback at a public hearing last week.

Property tax will go up two per cent, a rate in line with inflation. Taking into account utility-fee increases, the average homeowner can expect to pay 2.8 per cent extra (an increase of $80 from 2012), and the average business will owe an additional 1.4 per cent.

Mayor Gregor Robertson called the tax increase "very modest" and praised city staff for the 177-page report, which includes metrics for the first time. (For instance, we know that 43,000 potholes were fixed in 2012.)

The city revamped its budgeting process this year based on best-practice recommendations from consultant PWC.

Quoted

"I think there is too much spin in this budget."

Green party councillor Adriane Carr

But not all councillors supported the budget, with NPA Coun. George Affleck criticizing the lack of a line-by-line operating budget. Instead of numbers, he argued, the city delivered a long document that "tells a nice story."

"I think there is too much spin in this budget," Green party councillor Adriane Carr said, pointing to figures and commentary on homelessness. The number of people without homes increased by 20, but the commentary highlights how drastically street homelessness has decreased.

Coun. Kerry Jang dismissed her comments as "political grandstanding" and praised the budget. He compared the new budget format to looking at his children's report cards after investing in their education — if he spends money, he wants to see the results.

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Royal-prank fallout. Show halts phoney calls

A Vancouver morning show decided prank calls aren't worth the risk after the tragic fallout from an Aussie radio station's call to the London hospital where Kate Middleton was being treated for extreme morning sickness.

Jack FM 96.9 morning-show hosts Tara Jean Stevens and Kiah Tucker put an indefinite moratorium on prank calls after nurse Jacintha Saldanha was found dead, apparently by suicide, days after she was a victim of the prank.

Saldanha didn't register the Australians' phony accents as they imitated Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles and transferred them to get more information on the Duchess of Cambridge's health.

"In light of the recent tragedy and heightened sensitivities around the topic of radio prank calls, the morning show on 96.9 Jack FM in Vancouver has decided to stop anything that could be seen as a prank call on their show for the time being," station program director Murray Brookshaw said in a statement. "We support their decision."

Earlier this year, the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council reprimanded Tucker for a prank call made to a dentist's office on his former show, Virgin Radio's afternoon program. The call itself was fine, according to the decision, but it violated the code of ethics because the station did not get consent from the dentist's office to broadcast the prank.

Mel Greig and Michael Christian, the Australian DJs behind the hoax, have expressed remorse for the devastating turn of events. EMILY JACKSON /METRO

UBC. Mussel goo inspires blood-vessel glue

A blood-vessel gel inspired by the clinging ability of mussels could potentially be lifesaving, according to the University of British Columbia researcher who co-invented it.

The gel forms a protective barrier on blood-vessel walls, and researchers are hopeful it could help in the prevention of aneurysm, heart attack and stroke.

Christian Kastrup, an assistant professor at UBC who co-invented the gel while he was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the gel is similar to the amino acid that allows mussels to resist water and cling to rocks.

"The big question was how would we get something to adhere and be really sticky?" said Kastrup. He credits a doctor named Haeshin Lee, who studied mussel-adhesion chemistry, with first suggesting the idea.

Assistant UBC professor Christian Kastrup CONTRIBUTED

Kastrup explained that cells covering plaque on blood vessel walls can erode or rupture. This can cause blood to clot and break off, which leads to heart attack or stroke.

He is hopeful this treatment could work preventively for those at high risk.

Kastrup stressed that the gel is still in the testing stage. CARA MCKENNA/METRO

Cargo, an RCMP service dog, died Monday night. Cargo was beloved by the force and starred in a national RCMP recruiting commercial. CONTRIBUTED

Veteran RCMP dog will be missed

Companion. Cargo served for six years, catching bank robbers and protecting the prime minister

Policeman's best friend

"He's been a great companion and partner.... We have done a lot together and he will be greatly missed."

Cpl. Michael Jordan, Cargo's handler

CARA MCKENNA
vancouver@metronews.ca

Cargo, a Lower Mainland RCMP dog, died Monday night just one month from his set retirement.

Among other feats, Cargo had worked as Prime Minister Harper's guard dog, caught several bank robbers and starred in a national RCMP recruiting commercial.

The dog worked exclusively with his handler, Cpl. Michael Jordan, for six years and was going to become Jordan's family pet in January.

But on a Monday night post-shift run, Jordan noticed that something was not right.

He took the dog to the vet where he underwent exploratory surgery on his stomach.

It was discovered that Cargo was riddled with cancer and he passed away shortly afterwards.

"Police service dogs love their work," said Jordan.

"Cargo worked right up until the end without any hesitation and with no previous signs of illness. He's been a great companion and partner, as we have done a lot together, and he will be greatly missed."

Sgt. Peter Thiessen said the whole force, but especially Jordan, are mourning Cargo.

"It's difficult when this happens," said Thiessen.

"Especially for the handler when he loses his service partner like that."

Cargo has numerous offspring working as service dogs in the police force.

He has been cremated and his ashes are with Jordan.

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Surprised. Producer of hit YouTube video created project out of 'pure love'

Vancouverite Daniel Kim did not expect that his eight-minute trip down 2012's musical memory lane would get nearly eight million YouTube hits.

It has only been 11 days since the self-produced electro-house musician published his year-end mash-up video of more than 50 of this year's top pop gems, but it already has captured international attention and more than 19,000 YouTube comments.

The video includes hits from Justin Bieber, Rihanna, Carly Rae Jepsen, One Direction, and Psy.

"This was one of my first projects where I actually did it just out of joy, just for the pure love of working on it," Kim, 27, told Metro Tuesday. "And to have this kind of result from doing something out of pure joy, it's really a redeeming experience."

The University of B.C. grad was surprised that his Pop Danthology 2012 video got this big. His latest project got more play compared to his previous mash-up videos from 2011 and 2010; those got more than 760,000 and more than 400,000 views, respectively.

"A lot of people have been telling me the final piece I've made was ... better than the sum of its individual parts," Kim said.

Vancouverite Daniel Kim is behind a popular YouTube video. DAVID SHELDRICK/CONTRIBUTED

"And that I came up with something that made each song sound better."

Kim spent 500 hours collecting, planning and mixing the whole thing together.

"It's like putting a huge puzzle together: Some pieces fit together, some pieces don't," he said, adding it has opened a lot of doors for him.

Record companies have since expressed their interest in working with him and an international performing-arts school even offered to pay for his airfare and accommodations so he could lead a workshop at the school. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Bring hockey back

City council to write letter to NHL

Dear NHL, Vancouver wants hockey back. Love, Mayor Gregor Robertson.

Perhaps that won't be the exact text, but city council voted unanimously Tuesday to send both the NHL and its player's association letters urging for a speedy end to the lockout.

The City of Ottawa is rallying all NHL cities to do the same.

Whether it turns out to be the plea that tips the scale, council's desire to get the Canucks back on the ice and bodies into stadium seats isn't trivial or a distraction, Coun. Geoff Meggs said.

There has been a big economic impact on those who depend on hockey, he said, reading out an email from a worker at Rogers Arena.

"For every fan, someone like me is hoofing it over to the stadium to start job number two of the day," the email said.

"But right now, many of us are wondering how to make ends meet."

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A humpback whale feeds in the waters of Chatham Sound near Prince Rupert Tuesday. Chatham Sound is in what is called the oil-spill zone in case of a spill during transportation of oil from the Northern Gateway Pipeline via tanker ships. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two sides spar over oil pipeline

Consequences. Just one oil spill in 30 years will cause irreparable damage, conservation groups say

A half-dozen Pacific humpback whales broke the grey surface of the ocean Tuesday just a few nautical miles away from where proponents and critics are sparring before a federal panel that is weighing the future of the Northern Gateway oil pipeline.

It was a fairly calm day for storm season in the North Pacific, where Brian Falconer, a longtime mariner and marine-operations co-ordinator for the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, said waves can swell to 26 metres high.

But the project assessment by Calgary-based Enbridge said waves along the tanker route reach 10.2 metres.

"I've sailed on this coast for 35 years," said Falconer, and that is "very, very misleading."

"It doesn't match anybody's experience on the coast. Their portrayal of the weather conditions, their portrayal of duration of the fog — they don't match," he said as the Tsimshian Storm ferry swayed to and fro with the waves.

The company uses various averages, mean values and other "manipulations" of weather, storm conditions and shipping traffic to paint a more favourable picture of the oil pipeline and tanker port, he said.

"They're not lying. They've just chosen a way of expressing it that is meaningless in assessing risk," Falconer told reporters who took part in the trip organized by the World Wildlife Fund Canada to show the tanker route.

A couple of times a month during the winter, the area will see waves that pummel even huge container ships. Winds can gust on rare occasions to 70-some knots an hour and there is far more shipping traffic than presented when smaller and fishing vessels are included in the figures, he said.

"It's a manipulation of statistics ... the miracle of averaging," Falconer said.

Todd Nogier, a spokesman for Northern Gateway, said company experts will be questioned under oath about the data used in the assessment later in the hearings, and expect to fully explain their choices.

He said the statistics used by Enbridge represent the average, and not the most extreme events.

Ship pilots normally monitor closely all forecasts and weather information, and act accordingly, he said.

"They would adjust their scheduling and their route to avoid these extreme weather events," Nogier said.

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Conditions worsen in Syrian refugee camps as winter looms

Survival. Basic necessities are scarce, from blankets and food to toilets and medical supplies

Abdullah Ahmed, 10, suffered burns in a Syrian airstrike. He stands outside his family's tent in a village for displaced Syrians on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This tent camp sheltering Syrians uprooted by their country's brutal civil war has lost the race against winter: The ground under white tents is soaked in mud, fights erupt over scarce blankets and volunteer doctors routinely run out of medicine for coughing, runny-nosed children.

The 21-month-old battle to bring down President Bashar Assad has already forced some 3 million Syrians from their homes, according to a new estimate, and cold, wet winter weather is making life increasingly unbearable for the displaced.

Many of the roughly 12,000 people seeking refuge in the tent camp near the Syrian village of Atmeh on the Turkish border fled with just the clothes on their backs, running from intensifying bombing raids by the Syrian air force in recent months.

A 10-year-old boy, Abdullah Ahmed, walked around the camp with a bandaged head and hands after suffering burns during an airstrike on his home.

"I have nothing left except the mercy of God," said Mariam Ghraibeh, a 60-year-old war widow whose home in the town of Kafr Awaid, about 140 kilometres to the south, was destroyed in an airstrike a month ago. Ghraibeh and her family of 15 now huddle in tents, sleeping on thin mattresses on cold plastic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. recognition

An elevated status

U.S. President Barack Obama declared Syria's main opposition group the sole "legitimate representative" of its country's people Tuesday, deeming the move "a big step" in the international diplomatic efforts to end Syrian President Bashar Assad's embattled regime.

Obama said the newly formed Syrian Opposition Council "is now inclusive enough" to be granted the elevated status, paving the way for greater U.S. support. Recognition of the council as the sole representative of Syria's diverse population brings the U.S. in line with Britain, France and several of America's Arab allies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian judges boycott controversial referendum

Egypt's judges Tuesday said that most of them would not oversee a nationwide referendum on a contentious draft constitution, as tens of thousands of opponents and supporters of the country's Islamist president staged rival rallies in Cairo, four days ahead of the vote.

The demonstrations and judges' boycott came hours after masked assailants set upon opposition protesters staging a sit-in at Tahrir Square, firing birdshot and swinging knives and sticks, according to security officials. They later said that five "hardened criminals" were arrested in connection with the attack.

Eleven protesters were wounded, the MENA state news agency said, citing a Health Ministry spokesman.

The violence served as a stark reminder of the stakes in Egypt's political battle over the disputed draft constitution, which goes to a nationwide referendum on Saturday. The charter has deeply polarized the nation and triggered some of the worst street violence since Morsi took office in June as Egypt's first freely elected president.

On one side of the divide, there is President Mohammed Morsi, his Muslim Brotherhood and ultraorthodox Salafis, while on the other side there is a collection of liberals, leftists and Christians who claim the draft charter restricts freedoms and gives Islamists vast influence over the running of the country.

With tensions running high, the military appeared to insert itself into the fray when the MENA state news agency reported that Defence Minister Abdel-Fatah el-Sissi had called for talks on Wednesday to discuss how to resolve the crisis.

But the agency then quickly ran a second report, this time quoting an unnamed armed forces spokesman, who denied that el-Sissi had called for dialogue.

Later, the official Facebook page of the armed forces spokesman said el-Sissi was in fact extending an "invitation to the Egyptian family from all segments of the population during which no national dialogue will take place."

Whatever the exact nature of the invitation, it is the second time this week that the military has addressed the crisis, signalling its return to the political fray after handing over power in June to Morsi, Egypt's first civilian president.

Earlier this week, it warned of disastrous consequences if the crisis over the country's draft constitution is not resolved.

The move is unlikely to stop the referendum from taking place, but it does cast further doubt on the legitimacy of the constitutional drafting process and, ultimately, the document itself.

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A supporter of President Mohamed Morsi in Cairo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Apple acts

Want to drive into trouble in the Australian outback? There's an app for that

The city of Mildura is not at the end of a dirt road in the Australian bush, in tire-choking desert sand far from food and water.

But Apple's much-maligned mapping application thinks it is.

More than two months after Apple's CEO apologized for errors in its Maps service, Australian police say the app is "potentially life-threatening."

On Tuesday, a police official said Apple had "sort of half-fixed" the problem.

Police say they've had to rescue several Mildura-bound drivers who were directed by the app to remote Murray Sunset National Park, about 70 kilometres away.

Some were stranded for 24 hours without food or water and had to walk long distances.

The 5,000-square-kilometre park has desert-like conditions, scorching temperatures and has virtually no mobile phone reception.

In the past 30 days, six people have been stranded after turning into the park via a dirt road the Maps application recommends, Mildura police inspector Simon Clemence said.

Some were able to get out on their own but others needed to be rescued by police, he said.

Apple dropped Google Maps from its mobile operating systems in favour of its own application, which was quickly criticized for bad directions, misplaced landmarks and missing towns.

Apple CEO Tim Cook apologized for the mapping service and promised to improve it.

"We screwed up and we are putting the weight of the company behind correcting it," Cook said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoppers flee mall gun terror

Christmas rampage. Mall the scene of a frenzy of fear as camouflaged gunman opens fire, killing two

A gunman wearing camouflage and body armour brought terror to a crowded Christmas shopping mall Tuesday.

Shoppers screamed and cried, grabbed their children and ran for the nearest doors as shot after shot rang out in the mall in suburban Portland, Ore.

Even the mall's Santa was among those who ducked for cover.

Police said two people — and the gunman — died. One person was wounded.

The gunman apparently killed himself. Sheriff's Lt. James Rhodes said that amid the chaos the police didn't fire any shots.

Austin Patty, 20, who works at Macy's, said he saw a man in a white mask carrying a rifle and wearing a bulletproof vest.

He heard the gunman say, "I am the shooter," as if announcing himself, Patty said. He then fired several shots paced seconds apart.

Kira Rowland said she was shopping at Macy's in the Clackamas Town Center when the shots started.

"All of a sudden you hear two shots, which sounded like balloons popping," Rowland said.

"Everybody got on the ground. I grabbed the baby from the stroller and got on the ground."

Rowland said she heard people screaming and crying.

"I put the baby back in the stroller and ran like hell," Rowland said. "It was awful. It was shots after shots after shots, like a massacre."

Holli Bautista, 28, said she was shopping in Macy's for a Christmas dress.

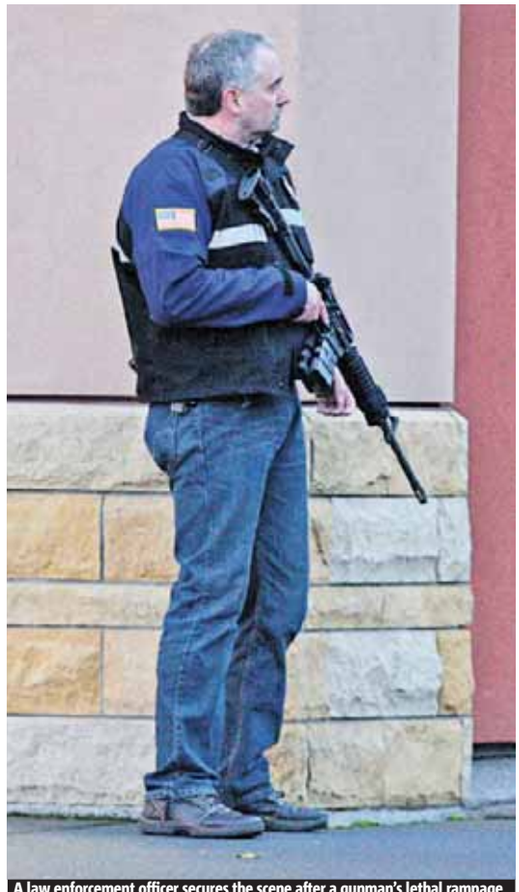
"I heard people running and screaming and saying, 'Get out, there's somebody shooting,'" she said. Hundreds of shoppers and mall employees started running. Bautista said police officers, firefighters and emergency workers were pouring in.

"There's tons of ambulances lined up," she said.

Macy's employees Pam Moore and Austin Patty said the shooter was short, with dark hair, dressed in camouflage.

He had body armour and a rifle and was wearing a white mask, they said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


A law enforcement officer secures the scene after a gunman's lethal rampage at a Portland, Ore., mall. THOMAS BOYD/THE OREGONIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I heard about 20 shots, and everyone hit the ground. That's when we all just ran."

Pam Moore, Macy's employee

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Royal hoax. Could Aussie radio station face charges?

Could the Australian radio station behind a royal prank phone call face charges?

Two DJs from Sydney's 2DayFM who phoned a London hospital got confidential information about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge.

A nurse who answered the call died later — leading to wide criticism of the DJs, who pretended to be Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles.

The New South Wales state Surveillance Devices Act prohibits the broadcast of recorded private conversations without participants' permission, with violations punishable by up to five years in prison.

Privacy law expert Barbara McDonald said the Commercial Radio Code of Practice has a similar ban.

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Defiant move. North Korea launches rocket in face of global condemnation

North Korea successfully fired a long-range rocket Wednesday, defying international warnings as the regime of Kim Jong Un took a giant step forward in its quest to develop the technology to deliver a nuclear warhead.

The United States, South Korea and Japan quickly condemned the morning launch, which came as something of a surprise after Pyongyang had indicated technical problems might delay it. That it succeeded after several failed attempts was an even greater surprise.

The regime's stated purpose for firing its long-range Unha-3 rocket was to put a peaceful satellite into orbit, but the United Nations, as well as the U.S. and its allies see it as cover for a test of technology for missiles.

About two hours after the launch, North Korea's state media proclaimed it a success, prompting customers in the coffee shop at Pyongyang's Koryo Hotel to break into applause during a special television broadcast. The North American Aerospace Defence Command, or NORAD, later confirmed that North Korea did appear to have put an object into space.

South Korean soldiers watch a public TV reporting news about North Korea's rocket launch. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday's launch is likely to bring fresh sanctions on the North, and the White House called it a "highly provocative act that threatens regional security."

NORAD said the rocket travelled south with the first stage falling into the Yellow Sea and a second stage falling into the Philippine Sea hundreds of kilometres (miles) farther south. "Initial indications are that the missile deployed an object that appeared to achieve orbit," NORAD said in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy rights. British lawmaker committee slams 'snooper's charter'

British lawmakers on Tuesday demanded the government water down plans to keep track of phone calls, email and Internet activity — a bill critics dub a "snooper's charter."

The Communications Data Bill would force telecoms service providers to retain for a year records of all phone and email traffic and website visits, though not the content of calls and messages.

The data on billions of emails, tweets, texts, calls and Internet hits would be available to police forces, the National Crime Agency and the revenue and customs service. The bill as it stands gives the government the power to extend that access to other agencies.

Home Secretary Theresa May has called the proposals "sensible and limited" measures to prevent crime and terrorism.

But an all-party parliamentary committee scrutinizing the legislation said the draft bill was "overkill and ... much wider than the specific needs identified by the law enforcement agencies."

"There is a fine but crucial line between allowing our law enforcement and security agencies' access to the information they need to protect the country, and allowing our citizens to go about their daily business without a fear, however unjustified, that the state is monitoring their every move," said the committee's chair, Conservative peer David Maclean. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sixties icon

Ravi Shankar, music legend, dead at 92

Ravi Shankar, the sitar virtuoso who became a hippie musical icon of the 1960s after hobnobbing with the Beatles and who introduced traditional Indian ragas to Western audiences over an eight-decade career, has died. He was 92.

The prime minister's office confirmed his death and called him a "national treasure." Labelled "the godfather of world music" by George Harrison, Shankar helped millions of classical, jazz and rock lovers discover the centuries-old traditions of Indian music.

He was also known as the estranged father of popular American singer Norah Jones. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Santa filling out underwater wish list

Dressed in a Santa Claus outfit, a diver feeds sardines at the Coex Aquarium in Seoul on Tuesday. Christmas is one of the biggest holidays in South Korea, where more than half of the population are Christians. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stolen iPhone's app captures alleged thief

iFoiled. Owner is sent photo and location of alleged thief via email when they attempt to unlock the phone

It's a cool app that may catch a sticky-fingered iPhone thief in Britain.

A woman is wanted for questioning after she unwittingly took a picture of herself with a stolen iPhone.

Police in Sussex have released a photo of the woman.

They aren't calling her a culprit yet.

"We don't know that the woman is the person who stole the camera, but she obviously has had some connection with it in the meantime and I'd like to speak to her about it," said Sussex officer Gavin Crute in a news release.

The phone had been stolen from the Coalition nightclub in Brighton, East Sussex earlier this month.

This woman is wanted for questioning in the case of a stolen iPhone in Britain. COURTESY SUSSEX POLICE

The photo was taken from a different location.

The owner had an app installed that takes a picture of anyone trying to unlock the phone and then sends the information back to them via email.

The app, identified by some media outlets to be IGotYa, is not available from the official Apple store.

The camera is activated when a wrong password is entered on the keypad.

Crute said that not only does the app photograph someone trying to unlock the phone, but it maps their location.

"We know where and when the photo was taken and it appears to be in a vehicle with quite a large sunroof," Crute said.

Apple has a free app called Find my iPhone, which shows a stolen phone's approximate location.

It does not, however, take a picture.

A similar story was told in New York last year, when a Queens woman was robbed while walking along a street.

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One Canadian will live to tell the tale if world ends

Space mission.
Astronaut Chris Hadfield will slip the bonds of Earth just before Mayan doomsday prediction

If next week's end of the Mayan calendar really does happen to mark the end of the world, one of the few people to live beyond the apocalypse would be a Canadian.

Astronaut Chris Hadfield will blast off in a Russian space capsule next Wednesday and arrive at the International Space Station on the declared doomsday: Dec. 21. In a telephone conference Tuesday with Canadian reporters, Hadfield joked that he'll have a place from which to witness the globe-stopping spectacle.

On a more serious note, the 53-year-old space veteran said people want to feel their time on Earth has mattered and they want their lives to be significant in history. So, he said, what could possibly make time on Earth more significant for someone than if the world happened to end during their time?

The married father of three says that while his visit probably won't coincide with the end of the world — it will mark the end of a lifelong dream. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Back to Earth

Hadfield is due to return to Earth in mid-May after leaving the planet for at least five months.

- **Spacemates.** He will be travelling to the station with NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, after blasting off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, right, and crew members of the next expedition to the International Space Station — American Tom Marshburn, left, and Russian Roman Romanenko — show a small toy during preflight preparation on Friday at Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome. They will be taking the toy with them to the ISS.
GETTY IMAGES

Hunger strike.
First Nation chief vows to 'die' to force treaty talks with feds

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan is offering to meet this week with a northern Ontario chief who embarked on a hunger strike Tuesday out of frustration with the federal government.

Chief Theresa Spence of the remote Attawapiskat First Nation launched her protest with a vow to "die" unless the Conservative government starts showing more respect to First Nations concerns and aboriginal treaties.

Spence was at the centre of a media storm last year because of a winter housing crisis in her community.

She says she wants the federal government to withdraw recent legislation which she claims was forced on aboriginals. She also wants it to reverse its decision to cut funding to First Nation organizations and communities.

Spence is staying in a cabin on an island in the Ottawa River while she goes without food. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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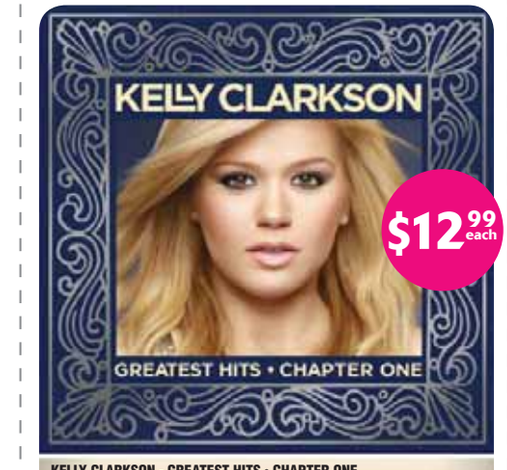

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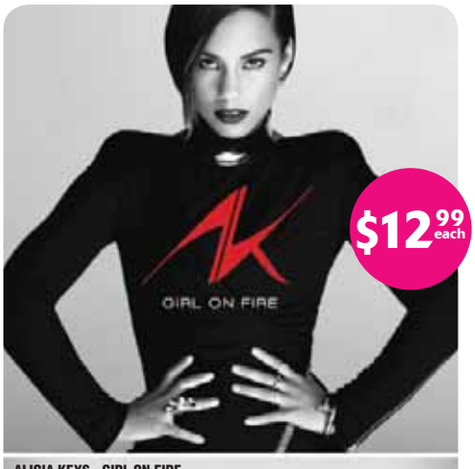

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Poorest Canadians see few gains in absolute income, report finds

New report. In dollar terms, those on lowest tier enjoyed far smaller increases than those at high end of scale

Income inequality in Canada has remained steady since 1998 according to the traditional benchmark, but absolute dollar gains by the country's highest earners have far outstripped the gains by those at the bottom, a report by TD Bank said Tuesday.

Even though the poorest saw a slightly larger percentage gain in income, absolute gains — the amount of dollars in a person's pocket — tell a different story, said TD Bank chief economist Craig Alexander.

After a 20-per cent increase, the after-inflation level of income of those in the bottom 20 per cent increased to only $15,200 in 2010 from $12,700 in 1998.

Meanwhile, at the high end of the income scale, the top 20 per cent have seen an 18-per cent increase in income since 1998, but that translates into $26,700 to bring their income to $171,900.

"So part of the issue around income inequality is the fact that households at the low end of the income scale have extremely absolute low levels of income, and that's a major challenge," Alexander said.

And, he points out, those in the middle of the range have seen the slowest pace of increases as the downward pressure on jobs and wages in the manufacturing sector has weighed on growth.

Alexander said within the middle group there was likely a range of experiences depending on what sector individuals were employed in.

The report says the gap between rich and poor increased in the 1990s as governments worked to balance their budgets, but since then has held steady. The results compared with growing income inequality in the U.S. which has seen its middle class eroded over the last two decades.

The financial crisis in the U.S. pushed the median household income south of the border to a 16-year low, while Canada's relative economic strength has helped push the country past our neighbour. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

$15,200

The after-inflation level of income of those in the bottom 20 per cent increased to only $15,200 in 2010 from $12,700 in 1998.

'Earth's rectum' furor. Windsor BIA steps up campaign to woo Colbert

With less than four days to go until its inaugural Santa Claus parade, the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association is hoping a new video will convince Stephen Colbert to play host.

Filmed by Marshall Sfalcin and starring BIA chair Larry Horwitz, the video is the latest missive in a campaign that began last month when Colbert responded on his show to the brouhaha over his referencing of Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in his new book America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't. (He told viewers he could have just as easily been talking about Winnipeg.)

Since then, Horwitz has been trying to get the American comedian to cross the border and serve as the grand marshal of the new holiday parade.

Online

Watch the video at metronews.ca.

Although filmed "entirely in Windsor," the video tells the tale of Horwitz's journey to New York to deliver a box full of Canadian goodies to Colbert. Along the way, he encounters rude baristas and has a run-in with security at Colbert's Comedy Central studios.

The downtown Santa Claus Parade is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday. To date, Colbert has not responded to the BIA's request. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

TV personality Stephen Colbert promotes America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't, in which he refers to Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in October in New York City. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Online health services

WebMD to cut jobs by 14%

Health website operator WebMD says it will cut about 14 per cent of its workforce as part of a push to reduce costs. The New York company says the cuts amount to about 250 positions, and it expects to reduce annual operating expenses by $45 million US.

WebMD provides health and benefits information to consumers, employers, doctors and health plans. It has been under pressure this year as drug companies cut back on advertising, and competition from social networking sites and ad networks increased. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CAGE CLOSED ON IKEA MONKEY

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Is the monkey over yet?

For 15 minutes, the Ikea Monkey was the most famous monkey in the world, the toast of everyone from Warren Kinsella to Anderson Cooper.

There he was last Sunday, larking around a Toronto Ikea parking lot in his cute little shearling coat and diaper, searching for the meatball special, distracting us for one brief monkeyshines moment, from the end of the world (Dec. 21) or the fiscal cliff (Jan. 1). If the Mayans don't get us, the U.S. Congress will.

I mean, come on. How could you resist the combination of a place where you buy rättviken sinks and ektorp sofa beds with a baby monkey named Darwin who brushes his teeth before he goes to bed and wears a Wizard of Oz-winged monkey costume for Halloween?

It was all fun until the authorities stepped in. They confiscated the coat and sent him to Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, north of Toronto. Arguably the story gets better. Now, Darwin, stripped of his raiment, has to learn to be a real monkey all over again. He'll have to bond with the other monkeys, and he'll have to do it without his 'nuck-'nuck (baby pacifier).

He's a caged animal

So that's it for Darwin, although he does leave a Twitter account and Facebook page behind, but he'll have to update his status from "free-ramblin'" to "caged."

Darwin's owner is distraught. Darwin is, after all, seven months old, and needs his mommy, even if his mommy has a little trouble telling one primate species from another. Now Darwin has gone to live on the back of some other confused primate. Sanctuary staff are hoping that will be Sweet Pea, a baboon rescued from a roadside zoo.

As you might imagine, Sweet Pea has issues, but she loves to nurture things — kittens, fake fur, naugahyde, so cute little Darwin is just the thing.

The owner is a lawyer, and, naturally, she's considering legal action to get her monkey back. When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail, but she should be careful what she sues for.

Cute little baby rhesus monkeys grow into cute, 50-centimetre-tall adults that carry diseases and fling their feces. She might want to leave Darwin up in Sunderland, cavorting with the lemurs (cue King Julien doing the morning exercise routine: "I like to move it, move it!")

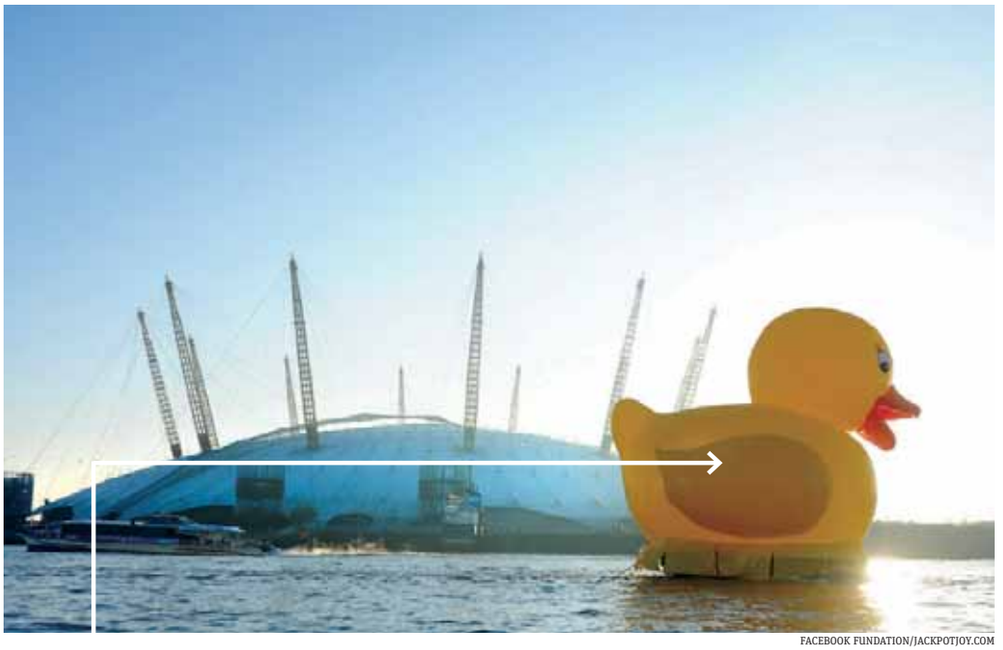
So that's it for Darwin, although he does leave a Twitter account and Facebook page behind, but he'll have to update his status from "free-ramblin'" to "caged."

As for the rest of us, we'll find some other Internet meme to distract us. But it will be a long time before that poignant picture of that little guy wandering around the Ikea parking lot looking for the ball room fades from memory.

A long time. At least another 15 minutes.

Darwin will have to adjust to living like a monkey at Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, Ont. NIAMH SCALLAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rubber ducky, you're the big one



FACEBOOK FUNDATION/JACKPOTJOY.COM

Duck tales

Massive duck sails through London

Londoners were treated to an unusual spectacle Tuesday as a giant 15-metre rubber duck floated down the River Thames.

The oversized bath toy got special treatment as the iconic Tower Bridge opened to allow it to sail through. The gigantic bird was launched to publicize a $400,000) bursary to encourage Brits to have more fun. METRO

According to research commissioned by the FUNdation, British adults laugh 7.2 times a day on average, but psychologists say we should laugh 15 times a day for optimal health and happiness.

LEWIS WHYLD/PA WIRE/PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES

Rubber ducks in the past

Bath toys outline ocean currents

In 1992, a container with 29,000 plastic bath toys fell off a cargo ship in the Pacific Ocean and broke open. The rubber ducks eventually washed up on shores in Japan, Hawaii and North America.

By studying the ocean currents, oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer correctly predicted their trip via the Northwest Passage to Great Britain. METRO

Duck dimensions

- **Weight.** 500 kilograms.
- **Size.** 15 metres tall and 18 metres wide.
- **Construction.** Made by an eight-person team, who spent more than 800 hours creating patterns, cutting and welding the sections together to produce the air-tight structure before it took to the water.

Quoted

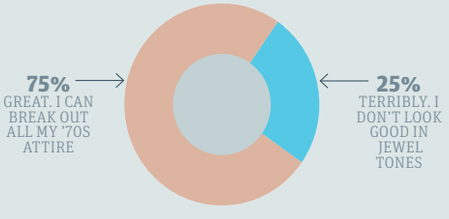
"We now want people to send us their own entries of wacky things they'd like to do, and we'll provide funding for the best ones."

Barbara Windsor, actress and patron of Jackpotjoy.com's new Facebook FUNdation bursary

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Emerald is Pantone's colour of the year for 2013. How does that grab you?



Twitter

@brentgranby: Yes we do-"@bccfe: Dr. Montaner asks "Does Canada want to be a leader in eliminating HIV?" http://ow.ly/g0Krt #HIVCan #TasP"

@kbieksa3: Watching @sophielui this morning and noticed she was sweating more than @slavy_72 was in Gastown ...what up with that?

@ctv_mariaw: People lined up for Carly Rae Jepsen tickets inside the Mission Leisure Centre - 500 free tickets being handed out at 6 pic.twitter.com/zmeYWWC7

@hayleyrosee_TW: the fact that buble is also from vancouver makes me happy.

@ashleighmcivor: That glow that let's u know ur fiancé is #foreveryoung (& he still plays the "don't let the wave get U" game) http://lockerz.com/s/268213341

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Never too late for a series spinoff

Television. Some of the best shows of our generation could still stand the test of time if they were converted into a new series

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Boy Meets World could meet Girl Meets World in a revisiting of the once-popular series. HANDOUT

Time has a way of stoking retro fever and nostalgia mining has a deep drill bit. It used to be conventional wisdom that you had a limited window to spinoff a TV show and breathe new life into departing characters before their cache cooled.

Frasier's 11 season run got started the same year Cheers stopped serving drinks and Buffy's vampire boy-toy Angel staked a claim on his own show while the slayer was still only halfway through stabbing Sunnydale's undead population.

The 1990s coming-of-age comedy Boy Meets World has been off the air for a dozen years, but it looks like this TV graveyard corpse is about to get reanimated with original stars Ben Savage and Danielle Fishel on board.

Girl Meets World will revisit Cory and Topanga in the present day where they now have a 13-year-old daughter. This development leaves us wondering; what other long-ago put-to-pasture series are ready to wake up and smell the future?

Steering Urkel back to fame

With Big Bang Theory garnering stratospheric ratings, it's clear there's more room for geeks in primetime. Fashion finally caught up with Steve Urkel's once gauche cardigans and plaid button downs that used to set him apart from the crowd.

The former TGIF mainstay is decidedly hipster in modern times, and adulthood has ironed out his voice's squeakiness so he doesn't even need his nerd-suppressing alter ego Stefan to make the ladies swoon.

The Pilot: Hired as the CEO of Virgin Galactic, Urkel struggles to keep one foot on the ground in Chicago where he and Laura are raising a brood of wily little Urkelos and the other in orbit catering to the whims of wealthy space tourists. Good thing his father-in-law Carl Winslow is still around to steer him in the right direction.

Friend to an Acquaintance

Watching present day Monica, Chandler and company reunite at Central Perk and yuk it up would be interesting television for about five minutes. Rather than dwell on past relationships already fleshed out over the course of 200-plus episodes, Acquaintances breaks new ground by focusing on the still loosely intertwined lives of the core cast of Friends. The hitch is they play caricatures of their slightly past-their-prime real-life selves a la Matt Leblanc on Episodes.

The Pilot: Courtney Cox begs Jennifer Aniston to appear on Cougar Town, which in the show's universe has switched networks once again and is hanging on by a thread. Jen relents, but not before making Courtney alphabetize her stack of Sexiest Woman Alive magazine appearances and polish her Golden Globe.

The XY Files

Flirty David Duchovny is much more palatable than spooky Duchovny. Besides, the Californication star is way more believable unzipping little black dresses and puffing post coitus cigs than chasing little grey men and attempting to see the truth behind smoking man's kabuki theatre.

The Pilot: A mysterious pandemic has winnowed the world's male population down to just 10 per cent, leaving virile men in high demand. Working in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control who discovered the virus was man-made, the FBI responds by opening the XY Files, a new task force intent on apprehending the culprits. Groaning sci-fi fans will be placated by the presence of Gillian Anderson's shrewd disapproving gaze as well as fanboy jaw droppers Katee Sackoff and Summer Glau thrown in for good measure.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Despite the fact that every single person in Hollywood gets divorced, these true-believers decided to throw caution to the wind and become betrothed. We look at the big ones:

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie
The deets: Pitt proposed to Jolie, his longtime girlfriend with whom he has six children, in April with a $500,000,16-carat rock. "It seems to mean more and more to our kids," he says about finally tying the knot, to Us Weekly.
Wedding date: Ha. Like they'd tell us.

Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston
The deets: The two actors, who met on the set of Wanderlust, got engaged in New York City on Aug. 10. Theroux proposed with an eight-carat ring, worth an estimated $500,000.
Wedding date: Again, we'll never know until they sell their photos to the magazine of their choice.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus
The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The Hunger Games actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat diamond ring.
Wedding date: Eh, you REALLY think this one is going to happen?

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin
The deets: The two love birds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.
Wedding date: It actually already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger
The deets: The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickleback, told a radio station about Lavigne.
Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell
The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended.
Wedding date: Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.

Pamela Anderson in deep over taxes

Pamela Anderson

Pamela Anderson is in hot water with the IRS. Two tax liens were recently filed against the former Baywatch star totaling more than $370,000, according to TMZ.

The IRS claims Anderson owes just over $250,000, with the rest coming from a filing by the state of California. Still, the total is something of an improvement for Anderson, who was added to California's list of the top 250 debtors in 2010, when she reportedly owed more than $493,000.

Twitter

@kirstiealley
Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM..notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window

@NiallOfficial
Sittin at home! Bored t death!

@Mruff221
I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.

@AlbertBrooks
By not tweeting I have gained substantially more followers.

Harry Styles

One Direction isn't too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledging romance with Harry Styles appears to already be causing strife among his One Direction bandmates. So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out. After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band travelled separately, according to E! News. "The rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They were a bit miffed that Harry chose to go with her instead of them. They had just finished a huge concert in New York and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo irritated them a bit."

Kisten Stewart

Stewart is cool with getting naked, OK?

Kristen Stewart is sick and tired of all the attention her nude scenes in On the Road are getting. "I do hate also when people go, 'Oh wow, great performance. So brave,'" she tells the Huffington Post. "Because I'm naked? That's annoying. But at the same time, if that's what they're focusing on, then On the Road probably isn't for them anyway." Stewart is a diehard fan of the Jack Kerouac novel on which the film is based, which meant she had no hesitation about doing the more revealing scenes. "This book celebrates being alive and it celebrates being human, and if you want to cover up and deny any aspect of that, you are denying the spirit of the book."

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5 Canadian Amazing Race destinations

It's coming to Canada, and it's staying here too. Cheers could be heard in households throughout the country when it was announced that The Amazing Race Canada would follow Canadians traipsing the true north strong and free while competing in challenges. Debuting next summer, producers promise the show will be a love letter to Canada, but haven't revealed which areas of the country will be featured. Here are five worthy location suggestions, along with challenge ideas too.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

1 Canoeing the South Nahanni River

SUBARCTIC MIKE/FLICKR

Breathtaking mountain ranges, falls twice the height of Niagara, hot springs and gorgeous flora and fauna can all be viewed along the Nahanni in the North West Territories. Contestants would be challenged with trying to stay afloat through rapids as they navigate the river's four canyons.

2 Mountain Biking in Whistler

Skiers and snowboarders flock to the snow-capped mountains of British Columbia in the winter months, but during the summer, it's all about biking. With courses that feature sharp turns, rugged terrain and stomach-in-your-throat drops, it's not for the faint of heart. The team who makes it to the bottom of the course first in one piece wins.

3 Driving the Cabot Trail

Arguably the country's most scenic drive, the highway features stunning vistas and wildlife as it weaves throughout Eastern Canada. Contestants would have to work a shift at one of the bed and breakfasts along the route, catering to fellow tourists. The team that gets the highest marks for service wins the challenge.

4 Survivor in the Thousand Islands

A picturesque destination for vacationers wanting to get away from it all, the thousand islands is known for its picture-frame worthy sunsets. Contestants would be tasked with navigating small sailboats along the Saint Lawrence River until they find an uninhabited island. The first group to start a small fire wins.

5 Scavenger Hunt through Kensington Market

A multicultural and national historic site in Toronto, even the oddest item on a shopping list can be found among the eclectic shops and market merchants. To prove the point, contestants would be given an obscure list of food and clothing items to buy and the first team to get all of them would win.

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New Fantasyland makes dreams come true

Disney. Fans of Florida's park have a new section to explore with the site's largest expansion in its history

Derrick Weitlich and his friend Leslie Martinez arrived at the Magic Kingdom at 5:40 a.m. last Thursday, wanting to be among the first to visit the park's New Fantasyland.

Getting up early was worth it, said these Melbourne, Fla., Disney fans, who estimated that they have visited the park some 180 times.

"I love Beauty and the Beast," said Martinez, while standing in front of the new Gaston's Tavern restaurant. "And I'm very picky when it comes to details about Beauty and the Beast."

Martinez and Weitlich weren't disappointed. From the antlers lining the walls in the tavern to the animatronic Ariel in the Under the Sea-Journey of the Little Mermaid ride, they were impressed with the New Fantasyland.

It's the largest expansion project in the park's 41-year history. The new spaces are built on what was once the site of the 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea experience, and the expansion doubles the size of the original Fantasyland.

The central Florida theme park near Orlando is blending classic Disney characters (like Dumbo, the flying elephant) and newer, popular hits (like The Little Mermaid) with the multi-million dollar expansion.

"It's really about immersing people in a number of stories, characters and music that they love," said Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs.

New Fantasyland sits just past Cinderella Castle, with two sections: Enchanted Forest, where visitors will find Belle from Beauty and the Beast and Ariel from The Little Mermaid, and Storybook Circus, which is inspired by the Disney film Dumbo.

Among the highlights: A ride called Under the Sea — Journey of the Little Mermaid, which tells Ariel's story, and Enchanted Tales With Belle, a walk-through experience that features a magical mirror and costumed characters.

Staggs said that the expansion allows families to "be a little more relaxed" while in the park, calling the spaces "more enjoyable."

Thursday's grand opening happened twice: Once for media and bloggers in front of Gaston's Tavern and then again on the steps of Cinderella Castle, with cheering park visitors. Staggs was joined by actress Ginnifer Goodwin, singer Jordin Sparks and, of course, Mickey Mouse. Sparks sang a medley of songs from Disney movies.

Two of the New Fantasyland's highlights have yet to open. A ride called Seven Dwarfs Mine Train is still under construction, as is Princess Fairytale Hall — where guests can go to meet all of their favourite Disney princesses at once.

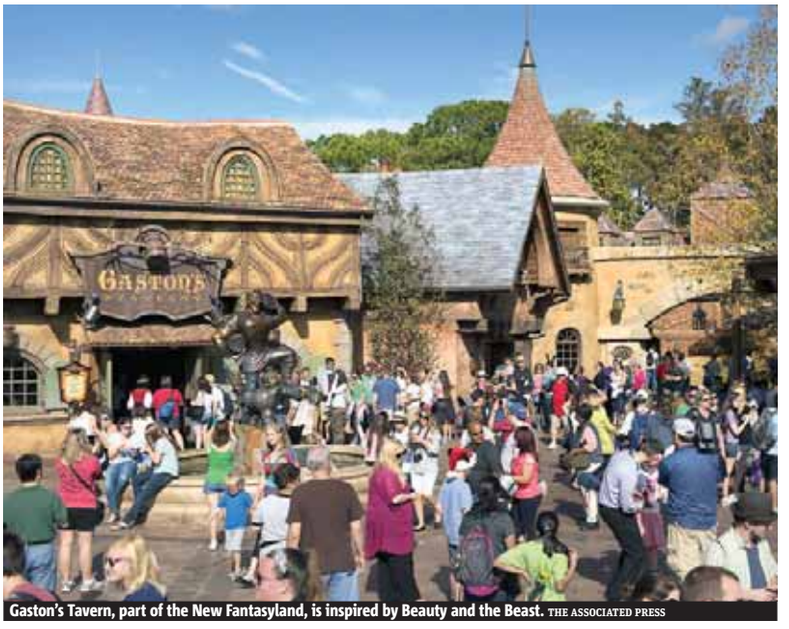
Disney officials said the princess experience will open next year and the ride is expected to open in 2014.

Be Our Guest Restaurant is new, and offers a different Disney concept. Folks who eat lunch will be served at the counter, while dinner guests will be served tableside. It will also serve wine and beer with dinner, which is the first time alcohol is being sold at the Magic Kingdom. The meals at Be Our Guest are French-themed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tradition lives on

For Disney traditionalists, never fear. Many of the park's longstanding beloved attractions like Cinderella Castle, and rides based on It's a Small World and The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh, remain open.



Gaston's Tavern, part of the New Fantasyland, is inspired by Beauty and the Beast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CONVENIENCE AND VARIETY

GIFT CARDS GIVE RECIPIENTS OPTIONS

Michael Bennett is an occasional gift card giver.

"I sometimes give them as thank you gifts or stocking stuffers," says the Guelph, Ont., man. "They're convenient and easy to give. The downside of them is they're easy to rely on them rather than discovering what someone likes and choosing a gift they would appreciate."

What is it about gift cards that we love so much? Is it the fact that we can buy them virtually anywhere? At a variety of price points in a variety of outlets?

"People generally know what type of store their friends or kids like to shop at," says Frances Ho, founder of Canadian site cardswap.ca. "However, they don't know specifically what sweater they prefer or the right pair of jeans. People are very particular about those things. It's just easier to give a card to a store they know they're going to enjoy."

While Ho believes it's more socially acceptable to give gift cards, she does believe it makes a difference in how you present it as a gift.

'If you combine a gift card with a really nice written message in the card, or wrapping it in a big box, it's really the effort that counts. Then it still has a warmth to it," she says.

They are also a nice way to give something to a gift that's too pricey.

"That's another benefit — if they're saving up for a larger item and the person can't afford to give you the large item, but they can give you a gift card towards," Ho says.

Gift cards do have their drawbacks, of course. Some come with expiry dates for example.

"And a lot of people tend to spend more money when they spend their gift cards because they treat it like it's free cash. And then they end up spending more than they actually budgeted for," Ho says.

However, you can make your gift card dollar stretch by watching for sales or deals — buy a gift card and pick up a gift for yourself for free, for example. Or re-gift a card that's not a fit for you or take it to a site such as cardswap.ca where you can trade your card in for points or cash.

"We see a variety of gift cards come in and whenever we post things on the site, they're gone within 24 hours because someone else wants that card," Ho says.

– Astrid Van Den Broek

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SECRET SANTA GIFT IDEAS

NEWS CANADA PHOTO

It's that time of year — you are buying presents for friends, family, and that one quiet guy at the office. Office gift exchanges often mean you are shopping for people you barely know. To help, the staff from Canada's largest bargain hunting site, RedFlagDeals.com, have put together some secret Santa tips:

BOSS: Buying presents for your boss can be awkward. Choose a meaningful gift instead of something fancy or expensive. Fun gifts like a framed photo from a work event or a batch of gourmet cookies to share are a good start.

NEW PERSON: This one is tougher. Keep an eye on what the new person likes to eat. If they come into the office every day with a large coffee, put together a nice mug, a coffee shop gift certificate and some chocolate-covered espresso beans for the ultimate gift.

INTERN: Usually, "intern" is a code word for "underpaid." Skip the gag gifts and get your intern something useful like movie passes.

RECEPTIONIST: If there is one thing a receptionist has enough of, it's office supplies. Skip the stationery and treat them to a deluxe gift basket, a gift certificate to the local salon for a manicure/pedicure combo, or a good book.

IT/HELP DESK: Treat the people who fix your computer well. Something like a gift certificate to their favourite restaurant will work. If you want to be a bit more creative, observe what they decorate their desk with and get them something that fits in. – *News Canada*

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YOUR SIMPLE GIFT SOLUTION

WALMART GIFT CARDS OFFER GREAT PRICES, CHOICES

Wondering what to give the mail carrier, the dog walker, your child's teacher, or the co-worker whose name you picked in the secret Santa draw? Or pretty much anyone on your holiday gift list? Thanks to Walmart, there's a simple solution.

"When you give a Walmart gift card, you're giving the gift of great prices and choices," says Felicia Fefer, Walmart Canada's manager of corporate affairs.

The beauty of giving a Walmart gift card is the person receiving it can choose to use it for whatever they want the most, from fashion and electronics to food and housewares.

There are more than 30 holiday gift card designs, ranging from contemporary (gold, white and purple snowflakes on a purple background) to traditional (holiday bells) and whimsical (cartoon of Santa and friends on a sleigh).

The collection also features cards with specialty finishes, including lenticular cards (where you hold the card still and see one design, then tilt it to view a second design) and scratch 'n' sniff cards (gingerbread is an appropriate scent at this time of year).

There are even cards for pet lovers, with cute images of cats and dogs decked out in holiday accessories.

The gift cards have matching tin carriers that retail for $2.47 each, so no wrapping is necessary. The tins have colourful contemporary Christmas designs that include a red-nosed reindeer pulling a sleigh, Santa with his sack of toys, a pile of gifts under a tree, and blue snowflakes on a white background.

Walmart gift cards can be bought at one store and redeemed at any other store location in Canada. Bonus: When the recipient has spent the amount on the card, it can be reloaded and reused. And the best part? There are no expiry dates.

The holiday-themed cards will be for sale right up until the stores close on Christmas Eve — ideal for last-minute shoppers who still have no idea what to get some of the people on their gift list.

"Walmart gift cards are popular all year long, but especially during the holidays," Fefer says.

"They're the perfect present for those who are hard to shop for or who have everything."

– Jane Doucet

FLEXIBLE PRICING

Located at the cash registers and near the front of the more than 370 Walmart stores across Canada, the gift cards come with a pre-set amount of $25, $50 or $100. Or you can choose the dollar amount — anywhere from $5 to $2,500 — which the cashier will load onto the card.

ONE CARD: MANY GIFT OPTIONS

FLEXIBLE VANILLA MASTERCARD®, VANILLA VISA® PREPAID CARDS

It's easy to get caught in the last-minute Christmas shopping bind — the stores are crazy, you are running out of time, and you aren't even sure what to buy for the friends and family who are left on your list.

What do you get a teenager who seems to change her style very week? What about the dog walker, the paper boy, your husband's cousin who is coming for Christmas dinner ... and what about your son's kindergarten teacher?

Let's face it, everyone has tough-to-buy-for people on their list and what makes it even tougher is the fact there are so many choices. From the newest high-tech gadgets to the latest must-have fashions, gift giving is just so much more difficult than it used to be.

So why not simplify your life and pick up prepaid Vanilla MasterCard and Vanilla Visa Cards for everyone left on your list.

These flexible, convenient cards are a great one-stop shop idea that puts the selection of gifts completely into the hands of the recipient, whether they shop in person or online.

What makes the cards even more convenient is the fact that they can be used anywhere MasterCard or Visa Cards are accepted, respectively, giving users the opportunity to purchase the exact gifts that they want.

"InComm Canada recently transitioned the Vanilla MasterCard and Vanilla Visa Prepaid Cards to a no-fee scheme. This means that, effective July 1, 2012, consumers will no longer incur monthly maintenance or card replacement fees after the card is activated. In addition, the balance on the card doesn't expire when the card does. Foreign currency conversions fees do still apply on transactions made outside of Canada," says Karen Budahazy, general manager, InComm Canada.

Vanilla Prepaid cards are available at retailers across Canada, including 7-Eleven, Shoppers Drug Mart, Couche-Tard, Jean Coutu, E.B. Games, Longo's, Mac's Convenience Stores, Money Mart, and Pharmaprix.

Vanilla MasterCard and Vanilla Visa Prepaid cards are available in multiple denominations from $25 to $250. With a number of different attractive designs — some of which feature the popular baby series from Anne Geddes — there's always a "perfect gift" for everyone when you give the gift of choice.

Vanilla MasterCard and Vanilla Visa Cards are issued by Peoples Trust Company pursuant to licences by MasterCard International and Visa Inc., respectively.

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Every weekday from Dec. 13-24, Vanilla MasterCard Prepaid Card will be giving away one daily prize of a $100 Vanilla MasterCard Prepaid Card. On Dec. 24, one second prize of $500 will be awarded, as well as one grand prize of $1,000, each in Vanilla Visa Prepaid Cards. Enter online by Dec. 23 vanillaprepaid-cards.com.

No purchase necessary. Open to legal residents of Canada of the age of majority. Limit one entry/daily prize per person. Odds of winning a daily prize depend on when you enter and the number of eligible entries received for each draw. Odds of winning second prize or grand prize depend on the number of eligible entries received during the promotion. Math skill-testing question required. Official rules at vanillaprepaidcards.com.

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Drink of the Week

Uchuva Cocktail

- 150 grams whole uchuva (cape gooseberries)
- 150 ml water
- 150 g sugar
- 360 ml gin
- 540 ml sparkling wine, cold
- 18 uchuvas, for muddling
- 24 mint leaves, for muddling
- 220 grams of ice
- Mint sprigs, for garnish

To make syrup, combine sugar and water in saucepan and cook over medium heat until sugar completely dissolves. Cool syrup in freezer. Combine uchuvas and syrup in blender and process on high 1 min. Pass mix through fine mesh strainer and discard solids. In pitcher, combine 180 ml of uchuva syrup, mint leaves and 18 uchuvas and muddle, 2 mins. Strain syrup and discard mint and uchuva pulp. Add gin and ice to syrup and stir 1 min. to chill; strain out ice. To serve, add sparkling wine, stir and divide the cocktail into 6 champagne flutes. Decorate each flute with a mint sprig.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

A very Colombian Christmas

Although many Canadian families have classic traditions for this time of year, it can be fun to spice things up with recipes from international hot spots.

Known for its historical urban centres, stunning beaches and Spanish nightlife, Colombia also has a lot to offer — even in the kitchen.

The country boasts scrumptious yuletide dishes that even the most amateur chef can prepare to impress guests by turning a typical holiday party into the ultimate fiesta. One of them is this Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto.

Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto

Wow your guests with the use of uchuva (gooseberry) in this main dish. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA.

Ingredients

- 150 g uchuva (cape gooseberry), chopped
- 50 g pistachio, finely chopped
- 15 g cilantro, finely chopped
- 50 g shallot, finely chopped
- 50 ml extra virgin olive oil

For the pork:

- Pork tenderloin, cleaned
- Salt and black pepper
- 30 ml sunflower or grape seed oil
- 60 g butter
- 100 g uchuva, sliced
- 12 g thyme
- 8 garlic cloves
- 12 uchuvas, thinly sliced for garnish

The "cape gooseberry," commonly known in Colombia as uchuva, can be found in local grocery stores.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F (205 C).

2. In bowl, combine the first five ingredients to prepare the uchuva pesto and set aside.

3. Slice the pork tenderloin into 6 portions and season with salt and black pepper.

4. Heat a heavy oven–proof skillet on high heat for 2 minutes and add half of the oil. Sear 3 portions of tenderloin and cook until brown on one side. Turn to sear the other side and add half of the sliced uchuvas, butter, thyme and garlic and allow the butter to melt completely in the pan.

5. Lower the heat to low. Tilting the pan forward, cover the tenderloins with the butter-uchuva mixture for 2 minutes. Place on a plate, clean skillet and repeat cooking procedure for the other portions of meat.

6. Place the first three portions back on the skillet and place in the oven. Cook for approximately 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the skillet from the oven and place the tenderloins on a rack to cool for 10 minutes.

7. Place the pork slices on a serving platter. Cover generously with the uchuva pesto and garnish with thinly sliced uchuva.

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Employers everywhere are preparing for the holiday rush and they need all the help they can get.

As a student, seasonal employment can be a great opportunity to try your hand at a position you may have never otherwise considered. Anaar Merali, division director of permanent placements at staffing firm Robert Half International shared her perspective on the benefits of seasonal employment:

Reprint that resumé!

Jobs are everywhere

Seasonal opportunities go beyond just retail. There are several firms in the financial sector that will take on extra help during their busy seasons. Accounting firms, for example, will often hire seasonal employees during tax season. If you do your research and ask around, you will find that these jobs are anywhere and everywhere. Take advantage of busy seasons — the end of the quarter or the year means more potential jobs.

Get the job

To land a seasonal job, it's important that the employer knows you're available immediately and flexible. Make it known that you are open to various types of positions.

"Be open and eager but not desperate," says Merali.

Keep an open mind

Working a seasonal job is the perfect opportunity to try working in a different industry and expand your professional network. Seasonal jobs are a fantastic way to get your foot in the door at a company where openings are less frequent.

For a recent grad in that transitional period, seasonal employment is a way to make some extra income instead of waiting around for permanent employment. And for students, it is an excellent way to make some much needed extra money during the holidays.

At the very least, you will have new and diverse experience to add your resumé. But what's more is these opportunities can often lead to permanent work. According to Merali, this happens quite frequently: "When people do such a good job, they often leave a huge impact."

Make the most of the opportunity

If your aim is to turn a seasonal job into full-time employment, the best thing you can do is leave an impression. Always be very professional and build relationships with everyone — managers, supervisors, the entire staff. Approach all of your tasks as if your decisions will have a long-term impact. Don't get stuck in the mindset that the job is just temporary, otherwise you will ensure that it is. Be committed and engaged.

"Be sure to showcase your skills," says Merali. If you are a seamless fit for the position, the company will have no choice but to keep you around. Demonstrate that you would be an asset to the company as a whole and that your skills are transferable between departments. Look at it and as an extended interview. If you are fortunate enough to have this chance, challenge yourself to think big.

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Student voice

All that I've gained from getting involved

Kelsey Goforth
Graduate
Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
University of Toronto
TalentEgg.ca

What's your school-to-work transition story?

While pursuing my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, I studied political science with an emphasis on human rights and international development. This past summer I was finishing up my final credit and was searching for the perfect summer job that would hopefully lead me into a career field directly related to these interests.

I was aware that a company called Public Outreach fundraised for developmental and human rights organizations and I had always been intrigued by the fundraisers that I had seen, but didn't picture myself taking on such a role.

However, on the advice of a friend, I applied. The role definitely surprised me. I had no idea how much I would be learning about various not-for-profit charities and how many amazing conversations I would have with donors. One highlight is when I met a woman from Zimbabwe who actually received aid from one of the charities I was fundraising for.

The position turned into far more than a summer job when roles in the recruitment department opened up. I began applying and eventually, in August, I took on the role of U.S. Recruiter, where I was responsible for recruitment in Boston, Chicago, New York City and Minneapolis. I was able to transition quite quickly to my new role, going from fundraiser to recruiter in three short months. Being able to learn about the inner-workings of a whole new department has given me the opportunity to better understand and appreciate all that the company does.

What am I doing now?

I am currently in my fourth month as a Public Outreach Recruiter. In addition to my U.S. recruitment duties, I also contribute blog posts to our staff website. Outside of work, I like to pursue other interests that not only appeal to me but also give me an additional skill set

Kelsey Goforth. PROVIDED

to include on resumés and applications. I write articles for TalentEgg and, additionally, I am beginning French courses in January in order to receive a certificate in french proficiency. Although I currently have a job, I do not want to prevent myself from continuing to learn more and develop my skills.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

When it comes to campus career centres and their related programs, it is important to be well-advertised and easily accessible. Students are busy with classes and extra-curriculars, so having flexible hours is imperative. Secondly, many programs at schools aren't given the exposure they deserve. Often students are bombarded with information in their first year, however by the time fourth year rolls around and the job search becomes more intense, these programs are long forgotten about. When students approach their final years of education, universities and colleges should remind them that there is plenty of guidance and resources available.

My advice for students and recent graduates

Get involved: As a student, it is important to think beyond essays and exams, and also take the time to get involved in your community. I personally found extra-curricular activities and volunteering to be extremely beneficial — both when it came to developing new skills as well as seeking employment.

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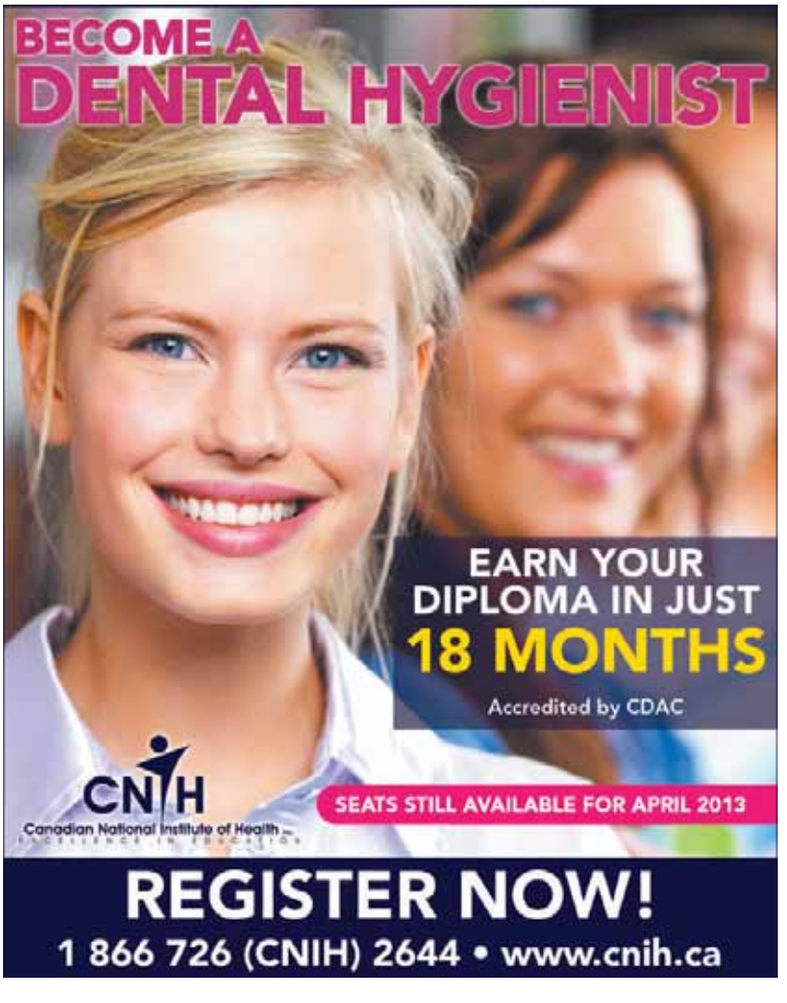


SPORTS 4

Lions lock up all-star linebacker

CFL. Adam Bighill sticks with local club through 2014, with option year in 2015

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Christmas came early for Adam Bighill.

The 24-year-old middle linebacker signed a contract extension with the Lions through the 2014 season with the option year of the deal in 2015.

To celebrate, Bighill is headed to the warmth of Orlando, Fla., for the holidays.

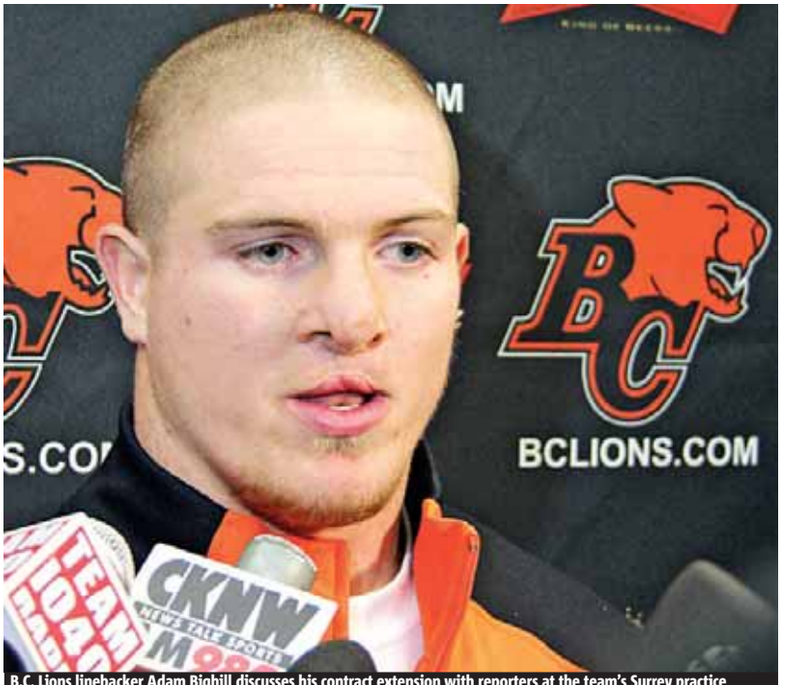
"My first vacation since I was 13, so much-deserved," he told reporters at the Lions' Surrey practice facility Tuesday.

Bighill, the product of Central Washington University, joined the Lions as a free agent in 2011. Despite a limited role on defence, he led the club with 22 special-teams tackles.

However, with the departure of Solomon Elimimian to the NFL during the last offseason, Bighill got a chance to compete for the starting middle linebacker job during training camp in June.

He earned the role, then produced a standout year worthy of all-star recognition as part of the Lions' staunch regular-season defence that led the CFL in 18 out of 25 categories.

Bighill finished second in the league in tackles with 104. He also tied for third in the league with nine sacks, three back of teammate, and the CFL leader in that category, Keron Williams.



B.C. Lions linebacker Adam Bighill discusses his contract extension with reporters at the team's Surrey practice facility Tuesday. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Quoted

"All the work he's put in, all the underdog roles that he's gone through — he's one of the good stories."

B.C. Lions head coach Mike Benevides speaking about Adam Bighill

And when Elimimian returned to the Lions in September after unsuccessful attempts to stick with the Minnesota Vikings and Cleveland Browns, Bighill retained his starting job.

His contributions to the Lions were too good to ignore or replace.

"When he had the opportunity he made it happen," said head coach Mike Benevides.

"All the work he's put in, all the underdog roles that he's gone through — he's one of the good stories."

Bighill's contract extension so soon after the conclusion of the 2012 season — the Lions lost the Western final on Nov. 18 — also illustrates how central a figure he is in B.C.

"I do want to say that the start of building our team for 2013 was to make sure that we looked at who was an important part of 2012," said Lions general manager and VP of football operations Wally Buono.

"I'm not sure that he surprised anybody except for the fact that he lived up to what we expected him to do."

Canucks prospect takes leave of absence from Harvard

Vancouver Canucks prospect Patrick McNally has recently been removed from the Harvard men's ice hockey team roster, the NHL club confirmed Tuesday.

"We can confirm that Patrick is no longer on the 2012-13 Harvard men's hockey roster and is taking a leave of absence from the university," said Canucks VP of hockey operations and assistant general manager Laurence Gilman Tuesday afternoon.

"We cannot speculate on the duration of the absence and will not comment further on the nature of his leave at this time."

The university's student newspaper, The Harvard Crimson, reported that a "handful" of unidentified players were removed from the roster, although it does not specify when or why.

"Some guys had to take a year absent," Harvard goaltender Raphael Girard told The Crimson. "I won't say any names, but like any other team, we might have some problems with the academic scandal. Some of them just want to take leaves to get more playing time and come back later because they were younger guys. Some other guys were just injured. But overall, they're going to come back; they're still part of our family and still part of our team."

Attempts to reach Harvard officials for comment were not returned before press time.

Quoted

"We cannot speculate on the duration of the absence and will not comment further on the nature of his leave at this time."

Canucks assistant GM Laurence Gilman on Patrick McNally

In addition to McNally, the College Hockey News reported that Max Everson, Mark Luzar and Stephen Michalek have also left Harvard's hockey team.

An investigation into as many as 125 student-athletes at Harvard began late this summer amid allegations of plagiarism or collaboration on a take-home exam.

McNally, a 21-year-old defenceman, was the Canucks' fourth-round pick, 115th overall, in the 2010 NHL draft.

Last season, in his freshman year at Harvard, McNally scored six goals and totalled 28 points in 34 games played. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Soccer

Accolades keep rolling in for Sinclair

Christine Sinclair has yet again made headlines across Canada's soccer landscape.

On Tuesday, the Canadian Soccer Association named Burnaby's Sinclair the Canadian female player of the year for 2012. The award came one day after Sinclair was given the annual Lou Marsh Award as the nation's outstanding athlete.

The male selection for Canadian soccer player of the year will be announced Wednesday.

Sinclair was sensational for Canada at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, scoring a hat trick against the heavily favoured American side in an emotionally charged semifinal loss, before helping guide the national team to an eventual bronze medal.

Sinclair, 29, has been named Canada's female player of the year nine consecutive years, and 10 times since 2000.

METRO

Tennis

Peliwo's stellar year ends with world's-best nod from ITF

Filip Peliwo found himself in some remarkable company Tuesday.

The 18-year-old tennis player from Vancouver was named the International Tennis Federation's junior world champion, Tennis Canada announced in a press release. Peliwo joins other ITF world champions Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams.

Peliwo is just the second Canadian to win a world champion title, according to Tennis Canada. The last Canuck to win such a title was Daniel Nestor, who has won 80 career doubles titles.

Peliwo reached four junior Grand Slam finals this season, winning the singles titles at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

"This is such a great achievement and a huge honour to be recognized by the ITF for this award," said Peliwo in a statement.

"I exceeded even my own expectations this past year and to have the year-end No. 1 ranking is something really special that I am proud of."

METRO

Battle of the crease: Four goalies fight for junior jobs

World junior selection camp. Canada will take a third goaltender to Russia as insurance against injury

No goalie feels more pressure at the world junior hockey championship than Canada's starter, says the man cultivating the next one.

Ron Tugnutt is the Canadian team's goaltending coach and has personally experienced that kind of pressure. In addition to a long NHL career, Tugnutt twice represented Canada at the men's world championship.

"There's a lot more pressure on our goalie than on the other teams," Tugnutt said Tuesday at selection camp in Calgary.

When European teams win the semifinal, they're thrilled at the prospect of "at least" a silver medal, but Canadian players aren't interested in anything but gold, he said.

"When we win the semifinal game, we're only thinking one thing," Tugnutt added.

With no incumbent from the previous world junior championship, a major subplot of selection camp in Calgary this week is who will be Canada's starter, backup and alternate at the 2013 world junior championship starting Dec. 26 in Ufa, Russia.

In a new development, Canada will take a third goaltender as insurance against injury because of the travel time required to get to south-central Russia.

Malcolm Subban of the Belleville Bulls, Laurent Brossoit of the Edmonton Oil Kings, Jordan Binnington of the Owen Sound Attack and Jake Paterson of the Saginaw Spirit are the four invitees. There's little time for them to impress head coach Steve Spott as the 23-player team will be finalized on Thursday afternoon.

Coach Spott tried to dampen speculation that Subban, the younger brother of Montreal Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban, has the inside track on the starting job because he plays on European-sized ice at Belleville's Yardmen Arena.

After four years on North American ice, the world junior tournament returns to a surface four metres wider with just over a half-metre more space between the back of the net and the end boards.

Tugnutt says Subban's big-ice experience is one check mark in his favour.

"I think it is an advantage for him just because it is a different visual," Tugnutt said. "But that's not going to be the determining factor on what happens here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Contrary to belief, there's no starting job being given out, I can tell you guys that."

Canadian juniors head coach Steve Spott on the goalie competition at selection camp

Goalie Malcolm Subban stretches on Tuesday during the national junior hockey team selection camp in Calgary.
JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Intrasquad game

Juniors fight for places in game action

Sudbury Wolves defenceman Frank Corrado scored the winner for Red in a 3-1 win over White on Tuesday in the Canadian junior hockey team's intrasquad game.

Corrado struck with 63 seconds remaining and teammate Ryan Nugent-Hopkins of the Edmonton Oilers added an empty-net goal. There was no scoring until the last five minutes of the game.

Phillip Danault of the Victoriaville Tigres scored first for Red at 14:20, but Medicine Hat Tigers forward Hunter Shinkaruk tied the game 26 seconds later.

Thirty-six players, most of them born in 1993 and 1994, are vying for 23 spots at the Canadian team's selection camp this week.

Jake Paterson of the Saginaw Spirit started in net for White and stopped all 10 shots he faced, while Red counterpart Jordan Binnington of the Owen Sound Attack also had a shutout on just five shots.

Belleville Bulls goalie Malcolm Subban allowed two goals on 16 shots in relief of Paterson. Laurent Brossoit of the Edmonton Oil Kings stopped 17 of 18 shots. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lakers' struggles don't 'make sense' to Bryant

Kobe Bryant, left, and Lakers teammate Antawn Jamison try to wrestle the ball away from Cavaliers point guard Kyrie Irving on Tuesday in Cleveland.
MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There had to be a low point. The Los Angeles Lakers can only hope they've reached it.

Their chaotic season has gotten worse.

Kyrie Irving scored 28 points in his return after missing 11 games with a broken finger, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 100-94 win over Kobe Bryant and the Lakers, who look nothing like a team projected to win an NBA title — or anything else.

"This is one of the most challenging stretches of my 17 years, and the most baffling, too," a puzzled Bryant said after the Lakers lost for the eighth time in 11 games. "We have the talent and personnel to do it, but we're not, and it's baffling. It's extremely frustrating.

"It doesn't make any sense. We're still finding ways to lose games."

Irving added 11 assists in 39 minutes and showed off his dizzying array of moves as the Cavs, who came in with just four wins, ended a five-game losing streak.

Bryant scored 42 points and Dwight Howard had 19 points and 20 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to stop the Lakers, who were still missing Pau Gasol and Steve Nash, from opening a four-game road trip with a loss that could sting for a while.

"We have to stop the bleeding — somehow," said Howard, who forced a trade this summer from Orlando to join the Lakers and maybe win some championships.

"We want to win. We're sick of losing. We all understand that situations like this don't last forever." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We can't let this kill our spirits too much."

Lakers centre Dwight Howard after Tuesday's loss in Cleveland

Magic chimes in

Magic Johnson questioned new coach Mike D'Antoni's system with the slumping Los Angeles Lakers.

- Johnson criticized D'Antoni's plan to make the Lakers into a running team on Tuesday.
- "You can't run with these guys," he said. "You've got to take that ball inside. That's how you win games."

Lockout

NHL, players to resume talks on Wednesday

The NHL and NHL Players' Association will resume their collective bargaining negotiations at an undisclosed location on Wednesday — and they'll have some company.

U.S. federal mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney are set to rejoin the process.

It will be the first meeting since the two sides took public shots at each other after talks went off the rails last week.

Before the blow-up, they appeared to be making progress during three days in New York that saw an exchange of proposals.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Knicks top New York City rivals

Carmelo Anthony scored 45 points, Jason Kidd made a tiebreaking three-pointer with 24 seconds left and the New York Knicks rallied from a 17-point hole to beat the Brooklyn Nets 100-97 on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Knicks guard J.R. Smith shoots past Nets guard Joe Johnson on Tuesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Saints bounty bans overturned

Finding fault with nearly everyone tied to the New Orleans Saints' bounty case, from the coaches to Roger Goodell, former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue tossed out the suspensions of four players on Tuesday and condemned the team for obstructing the investigation.

In a surprising rejection of his successor's punishments, Tagliabue wrote that he would "now vacate all discipline to be imposed upon" two current Saints, linebacker Jonathan Vilma and defensive end Will Smith, and two players no longer with the club, Browns linebacker Scott Fujita and free-agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Space

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The Flex's dashboard

2013 Ford Flex

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- **Engines (hp).** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (287), 3.5 litre DOHC V6, twin-turbocharged (365).
- **Transmission.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $32,150

Design

The Flex is mostly rectangular and has highly practical styling. Ford's designers made no attempt to disguise the vehicle's significant size, but for the 2013 model year they did devise a far more expressive nose consisting of a single brushed aluminum bar flanked by projector beam-style headlights.

Engine

The standard 3.5-litre V6 now makes 287 horsepower and 254 pound-feet of torque, a gain of 25 horses and six pound-feet from the 2012 engine. Optional is the returning 3.5-litre twin-turbocharged "EcoBoost" V6 rated at 365 (hp) and 350 pound-feet of torque, but only if it's fed premium-grade gasoline.

Review. If there's one vehicle that lives up to its name, this is it!

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Say what you will about the Ford Flex, this big-rig takes its people and cargo-carrying role seriously, but with a sly wink and a nod when the topic of styling is mentioned.

Wagon-style bodies are somewhat of a Ford specialty. Along with the Flex, three-row seating is offered in the full-size Expedition and the Explorer, while the Edge, Escape and the passenger version of the Transit Connect cargo van provide space for five.

Among them, however, the Flex is unique. It sits low to the ground like a regular sedan and shares the same platform with the Lincoln MKT wagon. That's preferable for those who want to access their vehicle without using a stepladder.

For 2013, Ford has upgraded the Flex in other ways, including the availability of second-row seatbelts that act a bit like airbags and inflate within 40 milliseconds of a crash. Additional extra-cost safety gear consists of radar-based adaptive cruise control that keeps a steady distance from the vehicle in front, and blind spot information with cross-traffic alert that warns of overtaking vehicles and vehicles approaching from either side when backing out of a parking spot. Then there's curve control that can detect when the Flex is entering a turn too quickly and within a second applies braking force to slow the vehicle down by up to 16 km/h.

The Flex's three-model line up starts with the $32,150 (including destination charges) SE that arrives fairly well equipped with all the usual accessories and gadgets.

The Flex's oversize dimensions and rectangular silhouette might give some buyers pause, but if you're seeking something different, thinking inside the box could make this Ford the perfect fit.

The Flex can seat six or seven people depending on your order.

Fold down the seats for some added room

By comparison

1 Mazda CX-9
Base price: $38,300

2 Chevrolet Traverse
Base price: $37,500

3 Toyota Highlander
Base price: $33,300

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Wash & Vacuum	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
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* Payments based on 5.9% for 84 months, residual $16,700. Total paid $20,064. ATS 0.9% lease for 36 mo, TP $17,640, lease end $21,439.

8 Automotive page turners

One of most accessible gifts you can get a car lover is a book. Local stores are stocked to the gills with them at this time of year and online sources can basically deliver them right to your door in a few days. However, what book to get is the tricky part. While it might be easy to simply pick up the first glossy-picture tome you see, getting a book with some actual words and a real story is what really gets us going. And that selection requires a little research. Well, we're your research. So, here are a few suggestions that are sure to beef up the library of any auto enthusiast.

JEFF MELNYCHUK
Wheelbase Media

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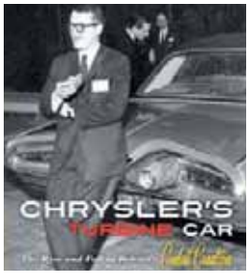
1



One cool Chrysler

Long before automakers began developing alternatives to piston-driven powerplants, Chrysler Corporation was working out the kinks for jet-style turbine power, although not to any satisfactory conclusion. Author Steve Lehto has documented these efforts in his book Chrysler's Turbine Car, The Rise and Fall of Detroit's Coolest Creation. Chrysler commissioned 55 of these jet-style turbine-engine cars and loaned them for testing by selected families throughout the United States. For a variety of reasons, Chrysler decided against turbine power and all but nine of the vehicles were destroyed

The 'Vette turns 60

Hard to imagine, but what is considered North America's first sports car turns 60 in 2013. Author Randy Leffingwell has considerable experience writing about the Corvette and produced a weighty coffee-table tome on the subject's 50th anniversary. His latest book expands on the topic and includes photos (many never before published), descriptions and considerable commentary on all six generations of Corvettes, from 1953 to the present day. Leffingwell also reviews the people who have influenced the car's development, including designers, engineers, marketers and racing drivers.

2

3

More barn finds

Author Tom Kotter recently launched The Corvette in the Barn, a continuation of his In the Barn book series. The stories focus on when, where and how people have located rare and/or collectable vehicles that have been stashed away for years in barns, garages, warehouses and fields, etc. Many of the cars have a strong connection to the original, or bequeathed owners who, in most cases, are reluctant to part with their treasures. How they are finally convinced to part with these abandoned classics, which are restored to good running order makes for fascinating reading.

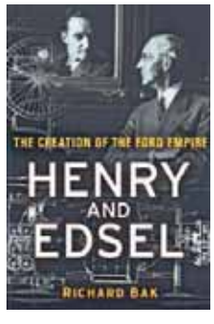
4

The racing actor

There are books about famous movie stars and books about famous auto racers, but rarely do the two disciplines converge. Paul Newman is one example, while Hollywood legend Steve McQueen, who died at age 50 from cancer in 1980, would be another. It was his 1971 portrayal as Porsche-pilot Michael Delaney in Le Mans (a movie he also produced) where McQueen displayed his absolute fanaticism for auto racing. Frédéric Brun's book Steve McQueen A Passion For Speed is full of behind-the-scenes photos of the actor/racer's obsession in front of the camera as well as participating in various racing events. It's $40 US from motorbooks.com.

5

Those founding Fords

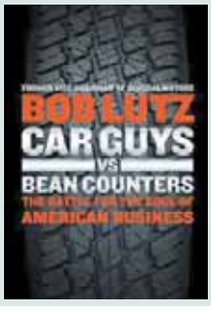


Henry and Edsel: The Creation of the Ford Empire, by Richard Bak, delves into the background of one of the most famous inventor/moguls the world has ever known. Bak not only traces the genesis of the Ford company, but lays bare the often troubled and tempestuous relationship between Henry Ford and the son who predeceased him. Also covered is the relationship between the senior Ford and Harry Bennett, his right-hand man and the person who, as Ford's security director, was also frequently at odds with Henry's son.

6

Think like a car

One of the most famous men in the car biz is Bob Lutz, who was General Motors' product king right up until its bankruptcy a few years back. While it would be easy to toss Bob under the bus for his perceived role, his accounting of what actually happened might have you thinking differently. Bob Lutz's Car Guys vs. Bean Counters chronicles an ongoing battle with non-product types who actually shape product through cost cutting, a philosophy that nearly spelled doom for General Motors. This head-in-the-sand culture was apparently prevalent during Lutz's time as a General Motors executive.



7

Who's the Boss?

The original Ford Mustang was perceived by the automaker as a blank canvas from which a competitive racing machine could be forged. Over the decades, the Boss attained cult status, with prices for the few original versions skyrocketing. Donald Farr's book Mustang Boss 302: From Racing Legend to Modern Muscle Car, traces the origins of the Boss project and picks up the story with the designation's return for the 2012 model year. If your recipient is in love with the look of the Mustang, then this book proves that it's more than just about cake-dressing.

8

Colour your cars

Dover Publications' series of automotive-themed colouring books is perfect for whiling away the hours as you attempt to keep within the lines. The titles include Classic Cars of the Fifties, American Muscle Cars, Racing Cars and Historic Automobiles. Some also include key facts and statistics about the various vehicles and, in particular, the Classic Racing Cars book also includes the correct colour code for each illustration. The colouring books start at $4 US each and can be purchased at doverpublications.com.

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With visibility vital, winter wipers always keep safety in sight

Driving Force.
Just like tires, it's wise to switch wipers when the cold kicks in to ensure maximum safety

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Your wiper blades are among the most critical safety features on your vehicle. If you can't see, you're not safe, and dirt builds up quickly in winter weather.

"Visibility is extremely important," says Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire. "You want the wiper that will give you the best possible performance."

The claw structure, one of the oldest designs, uses a thin blade. A more modern design is the beam blade, which uses a wider wiper.

"Instead of pressure points like the claw structure, the beam maintains even pressure across the blade, which gives it a more consistent wipe," Jeffrey says.

"And with the claw structure, there are open spaces where you can get a lot of snow build-up, which limits the wiper's ability to form to the windshield and give you a solid wipe."

At higher speeds, claw blades are more susceptible to wind, which can lift them off the glass and cause chatter. Beam blades are more aerodynamic and aren't as affected by this.

Just as you can put winter tires on your car, you can also switch to winter wiper blades. Originally these were claw blades with a rubber boot that prevented them clogging with snow.

Today's winter blades use a special rubber compound that stays supple at very low temperatures. Most will wear quickly in hot weather, so it's best to switch to regular blades in spring, and store these pricier blades until next winter.

Quoted

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade. Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade and if you're going to use one all year round the beam blade is better."

Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire
On the importance of choosing the right windscreen wiper.

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade," Jeffrey says.

"Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade, and if you're only going to use one year-round, the beam blade is better. But when you get into a winter blade, you get that winter compound too."

When cleaning ice off your windshield, be careful not to hit your wiper blades with the scraper. If the blades are stuck to the windshield, turn on the defrosters to help free them. If you just pull on them, they may tear.

And never shut off your engine with the wipers on: if they freeze to the glass, it could damage the wiper motor when you restart the car.

Choose your blades wisely for the cutting winter ahead. HANDOUT

Rules

- **No dirty blades.** Always replace your wiper blades if they start to streak or leave dirty patches.
- **Choose correct fluid.** Use windshield washer fluid that's formulated for winter temperatures. If fluid freezes on the glass, you won't be able to see.
- **Double check wiper choice.** Some vehicles have two different sized wiper blades, due to the shape of the windshield, so be sure you're buying the right ones.

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2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab Laramie 4x4 shown.§

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Motorcycle show big on the small

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I wouldn't say there is anything wrong with an outrageously loud and overpowered Orange County chopper, especially to the weathered face and tattooed biceps of a large person who just got off such a bike in the parking lot. But bigger motorbikes are just not my style.

I love small motorcycles. They're fun to ride and easy to own. And I'm in the styling camp that gravitates to great proportions above all else, so to me, overall size has very little to do with the visual impact and/or appeal of any given bike or car.

So I was thrilled to see so many neat and smallish rides on the show floor of last weekend's motorcycle show in Toronto.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal. (Check local listings for dates and venues).

At last year's show, for example, you wouldn't have seen the new Suzuki GW250, or Honda's new CB500 line (CB500F, CB500X, CBR500R). Honda suddenly has a very attractive and logical progression of street bikes, in 125-cc, 250-cc and 500-cc formats.

"People want an affordable entry level motorcycle. That's where the market is going right now," said Dave Hawson, director of sales and marketing for Suzuki Canada's motorcycle, ATV and marine division.

Hawson added that a lot of the "affordability" of smaller bikes manifests itself in the insurance end, especially for younger and/or newer riders.

He's dead right. My small phone survey to brokers revealed that an 18-year-old looking to insure a 600-cc sportbike in the GTA would be looking at premiums of about $3,500 to $4,000 and beyond. By contrast, that same 18-year-old rider could insure a 250-cc bike in the GTA for $1,500 to $2,000 — basically half the price.

At the show I ran into Dave Mackenzie of Motorsports Canada, which imports the Wolf Classic 150 — a Honda Rebel knockoff with a 150-cc engine.

He felt that up until a few years ago, the Canadian market was "starved" of small motorcycles.

He believed the big brands shied away from them here in North America, because there was simply more money to be found, per unit, in the larger bike formats.

I guess it's hard to say whether that was the case, or if it was simply a case of no one wanting to buy the smaller bikes back then.

But there is no denying, however, that the big brands are more aware and concerned than ever that their biggest group of motorcycles buyers — the boomers — are getting older and older and will soon fade from the scene and that they need a new generation of buyers to get into motorcycling culture.

Insurance and industry forces aside, I think people have also generally rediscovered the joys of smallish motorcycles, after years of chasing horsepower and their high-speed capabilities.

For those that like the bigger stuff, have no fear. The influx of smaller bikes has not diminished the number of variety of big, powerful bikes, in all their guises.

To each their own, I say, even if they are so wrong in their big-bike convictions that they can no longer be saved from them.

Even by me.

Santa Claus prepares to treat himself to an early present on hearing the news that a 2013 Jetta is now only $168 a month. *"I'm telling everyone – but not everyone believes in me,"* he commented.

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Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,772, **$500 LOAN SAVINGS**§ and **$1,000 EVERYBODY WINS SAVINGS**♦
BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $28,667. Offer based on 2013 Sorento LX AT.

5 Year Warranty*

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
*5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty.

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KIA
The Power to Surprise

Offer(s) available on select new 2012/2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 2nd, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models on approved credit. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Rio5 LX+ AT (RO753D) with a selling price of $18,572 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies) and A/C charge ($100, where applicable)] financed at 0% APR for 36 months. 78 bi-weekly payments equal $225 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ♦Every eligible contestant will win (subject to correctly answering a skill-testing question) an Instant Win prize consisting of a discount in an amount from $1,000 to $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2012 or 2013 Kia vehicle. One Grand Prize consisting of a $25,000 cheque will be randomly awarded from among all eligible contestants at the conclusion of the contest. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license over the age of majority. Odds of winning a particular discount vary by prize and by region. See kia.ca or your participating Kia dealer for complete contest rules. ≠≠Don't Pay until Spring™ on select new models (120-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on all 2013 Sorento models. No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment (on approved credit) for new 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD)/2013 Sorento 3.5L LX V6 (SR75ED)/2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT (SP551D)/2012 Rondo LX with AC (RN750C) based on a selling price of $28,667/$31,267/$23,767/$22,767 is $157/$172/$130/$114 with an APR of 1.49%/1.49%/1.99%/0% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,053/$8,824/$6,606/$5,933 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, $500/$500/$750/$1,000 loan savings, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies) and A/C charge ($100, where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. §Loan savings for 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD)/2013 Sorento 3.5L LX V6 (SR75ED)/2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT (SP551D)/2012 Rondo LX with AC (RN750C) is $500/$500/$750/$1,000 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit. Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. ^^Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD (SR75XD)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX with Navigation (SP759D)/2012 Rondo EX V6 Luxury (RN75BC) is $43,045/$39,145/$28,945 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650 and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies), variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. °The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. ‡Trailer brakes must be equipped to achieve 3,500 lbs towing capacity. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2012 Rondo 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T). These updated estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

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• 5 minutes from Richmond • 5 minutes from Burnaby
• minutes from Downtown

EXPRESS YOUR PERSONAL STYLE

AND PROTECT YOUR PHONE FROM THE ELEMENTS AT PEPPER WIRELESS

When it gets wet and cold out, people aren't the only ones who need protection from the elements — our phones do, too.

"Losing a cellphone to mechanical or water damage can be a disaster," says Teddy, marketing manager at Pepper Wireless Solutions. "It's an investment worth protecting and we depend on it every day."

The Vancouver-based company's phone accessories help keep your phone pristine, she says.

"Most of us have a close call now and then," Teddy says. "You want to make sure your phone isn't going to die because of one little slip-up."

PRACTICAL GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Phone cases, charms, protectors and chargers make fun, practical gifts for the people you care about. Since you probably won't have their phone to show staff in the Pepper Wireless Fido store, find out the make and model of your gift recipient's phone before you come in. Images of most phone models can be found easily online.

Starting from $20, Pepper Wireless's exclusive Fido store on Robson and Bute offers sleek, low-profile phone cases. They wrap the phone snug and keep it in one piece, scratch-free. For a fun twist on phone fashion that offers the same durability, the store carries a wide variety of fashion cases in many colours and styles.

"They're a way of expressing your personal style. And they make awesome gifts," she says.

The Capdase and Tunewear cases at the Pepper Wireless Fido store have slim, phone-hugging designs with a brushed-texture finish. They come in a variety of colours, from simple black to out-there neon yellow, and provide everyday shock protection and usability with easy access to all the phone's hot buttons.

If your phone has a quirky personality, the Karapace Jacket by Capdase even comes in a colour-changing shade.

Once you have your phone's back covered, you will want to protect its front.

"Screen protectors are another inexpensive way to maximize your phone's lifespan," Teddy says. "They protect from all the little scratches that can add up from too much mingling with car keys in your pocket or bag."

Clarivue protectors offer maximum screen protection, giving phones a scratch-resistant, anti-fingerprint and anti-glare film that phone owners come to appreciate in the long run.

"Every time you remove a battered, scuffed screen protector, it's like giving your phone a makeover. It stays shiny and beautiful," Teddy says.

And, yes, it works on touchscreens.

The Pepper Wireless Solutions Fido store is located on Robson Street at Bute in downtown Vancouver. Just look for the Fido sign.

For more, call 604-620-9966.

Lansdowne Centre
604-270-2000

Aberdeen Centre
604-233-7788

Yaohan Centre
604-207-9366

Main & 16th
604-708-9366

Broadway & Cambie
604-568-9009

Robson & Bute
604-620-9966

Royal Centre
604-558-3436

Royal City Centre
604-525-3436

Limited time offer. Offer subject to change without notice. Early cancellation fees apply. *Valid on Sony Xperia U and Xperia go with activation on select 2- or 2-year Fido agreement. $50 activation bunus is in the form of two $25 Network Reward certificates which can be applied as a credit against customers' Fido monthly invoice. Only one Network Reward per account, per month can be redeemed. Offer is only available at Pepper Wireless Vancouver locations. **Fido and related names & logos are trademarks used under licence. ©2012

Sony Xperia U
Sony Xperia go
Activate a SONY phone & get
$50 activation bonus* exclusive offer
A Holiday Gift
from PepperWireless
10% OFF accessories
Bring this coupon to any PepperWireless location to redeem this special offer
Offer expires Dec. 31, 2012

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't take sides or play favourites today. In fact, steer clear of contentious issues altogether if you can. No matter how hard you try to be fair, you will make more enemies than friends.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You are being too serious about something that is of no importance in the greater scheme of things. Focus on what makes you feel good, what makes you laugh, what makes you glad to be alive. Nothing else matters.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if someone you live or work with is trying to undermine your efforts, but in reality you are reading too much into a situation that is quite straightforward. Don't listen to what they say — watch what they do.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No matter how annoying certain people get today, you must not allow yourself to be provoked. You may be raging on the inside but if you stay calm on the outside it will defuse what could have been a messy situation.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A sudden attraction is likely today but it may be more than just romantic. Most likely you will meet someone whose mind is a match for your own, and whose sense of humour has you laughing fit to bust.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to do some serious thinking about a relationship that has brought you a lot of pleasure but also a considerable amount of pain. Is it worth carrying on with? Only you can decide. Make your choice.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need to slow down and catch your breath today because what happens over the following three or four days will be both exciting and exhausting. Give your body, your mind and your emotions a rest — they've earned it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
If you uncover some juicy information about a friend, you should keep it to yourself. It will save them from embarrassment — and give you a bargaining chip you may one day be able to use.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some people are feeling rather resentful towards you. Why? Because everything you touch turns to gold. It's not your fault you are smack bang in the middle of such a fortunate phase, so don't feel guilty about it.

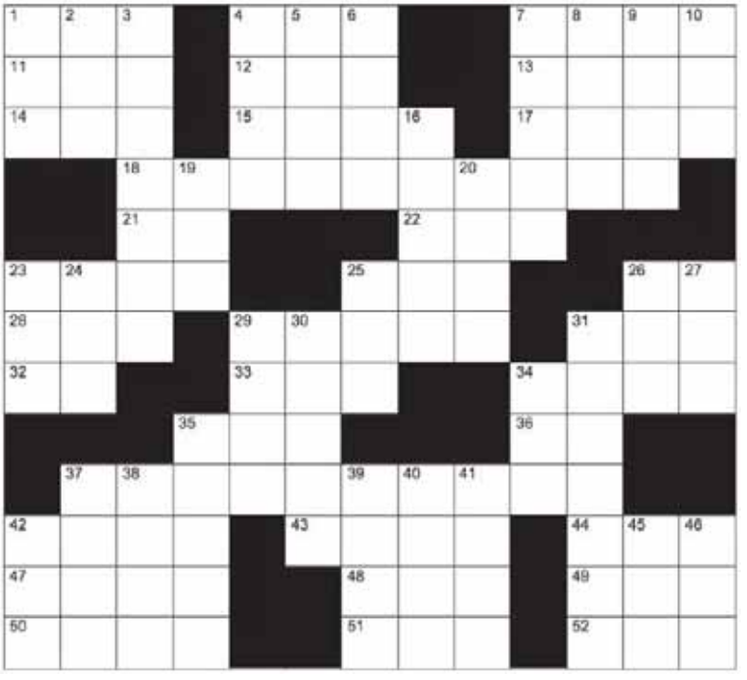
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The planets warn that although it's right to feel pleased with what you have achieved, it would be wrong to believe it's all plain sailing from now on. A new challenge is heading your way. Be ready for it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stop thinking about what has gone wrong and focus on the many things that are still going right for you. There is no reason at all why you should be in a downbeat mood. Life is good and getting better.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend in need may be the last thing you want to deal with right now but you are not the sort to turn them away. Do what you can to soothe their fears and ease their pain. You'll benefit too, in unexpected ways. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

BY BETTY MARTIN



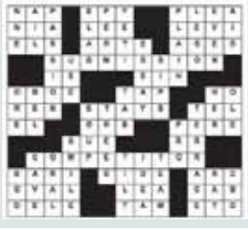
Across

1. Apple product
4. Golfer's goal
7. Reunion attendee
11. Stop – - dime (2 words)
12. Before, or yore
13. Singer/actress Falana
14. Ruin
15. Make over
17. Fashion magazine
18. Star of Touched by an Angel (2 words)
21. – the Heat of the Night
22. Buddhist sect
23. Fuss
25. Gamble
26. "How to Marry a Millionaire" actress (init.)
28. "Con —"
29. Wedge
31. Bikini half
32. Courtroom figure (abbr.)
33. Snakelike fish
34. My Name is —
35. Syrup source
36. Minneapolis state.
37. Wee Irish fairy
42. Actress Ramirez of Grey's Anatomy
43. "— on Me"
44. La Rue of CSI: Miami
47. Related
48. Do away with
49. — Tin Tin
50. Jeans go-with
51. Pauses
52. Unhappy

Down

1. We celebrate her in May
2. Actress Ortiz of Ugly Betty
3. Transporter
4. Hairdo
5. Space
6. Comedian Foxx
7. Actress Close
8. Function
9. — McBeal
10. Daniel — Kim of Hawaii Five-O
16. Seeps
19. Toronto's prov.
20. Dampens
23. Passing fancy
24. Inlet
25. Sound measure
26. Sub zero comment
27. Guy's date
29. Juicy fruit
30. Ward off
31. Pennants
34. Aussie bird
35. Reaches
37. Pond
38. Canal of song
39. Bird-bill part
40. Broadway musical
41. No ifs, — or buts
42. Was in session
45. By way of
46. The Bold – the Beautiful

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5						3		9
		1	3		2			
2					7			
		2					6	
	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	
	7					4		
			2					1
			7		8	6		
1		4						3

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	9	2	7	3
5	7	2	8	4	3	9	6	1
9	3	6	1	2	7	8	5	4
4	6	8	9	7	1	5	3	2
3	2	1	5	6	6	4	9	7
7	5	9	4	3	2	1	8	6
1	8	5	3	6	4	7	2	9
6	9	7	2	1	5	3	4	8
2	4	3	7	9	8	6	1	5

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EMPLOYEE FRIENDS & FAMILY PRICING

0%† FINANCING + UP TO $10,000 ON SELECT MODELS IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 ELANTRA

GET UP TO

$2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $15,444♦

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

SE with Tech. shown

2013 ELANTRA GT

GET UP TO

$1,850 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $18,794♦

ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR
(OVER $21K)

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA

GET UP TO

$3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $22,064♦

SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED CAR – NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S 2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD◊

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

GET UP TO

$1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $27,109♦

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV
(OVER $35K)

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0% for 24/24/48/24 months. Bi-weekly payment is $297/$362/$213/$522. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$0/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for $22,064 (includes $3,500 price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals $213 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of $22,064. Cash price is $22,064. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.8L/100KM)/2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦Friends & Family prices for models shown (includes $2,000/$1,805/$3,225/$1,250 in price adjustments): 2013 Elantra Limited/Elantra GT SE Tech 6-Speed Auto/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD is $22,694/$26,039/$27,339/$39,009. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦Friends & Family Selling Prices are calculated against the starting price less all factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments). Friends & Family Selling Prices include Delivery and Destination. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ‡Factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments) are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Factory to Dealer Price adjustments of $2,000/$1,850/$3,500/$1,150 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto includes Friends & Family price adjustments. Factory to dealer price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †♦‡Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ◊Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

Jim Pattison Hyundai Northshore
855 Automall Dr.
North Vancouver, 604-985-0055
D#6700

OpenRoad Hyundai
13171 Smallwood Place
Richmond, 604-606-9033
D#28516

Jim Pattison Hyundai Port Coquitlam
Unit B - 2385 Ottawa St.
Port Coquitlam, 604-552-1700
D#30242

Langley Hyundai
19459 Langley Bypass
Surrey, 604-539-8549
D#30331

Jim Pattison Hyundai Surrey
15365 Guildford Drive
North Surrey, 604-582-8118
D#10977

Murray Hyundai White Rock
3150 King George Highway
Surrey, 604-538-7022
D#30780

Maple Ridge Hyundai
23213 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, 604-467-3401
D#7356

Abbotsford Hyundai
30250 Automall Dr.
Abbotsford, 604-857-2622
D#9390

Mertin Hyundai
45753 Yale Rd.
Chilliwack, 604-702-1000
D#30337

Destination Hyundai
445 Kingsway
Vancouver, 604-292-8188
D#31042